

Activity Type

Vocabulary Activity:
writing clues, describing,
guessing (pair work)

Focus

Describing animals

Aim

To complete a crossword
by describing and
guessing different
animals.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two
worksheets for each pair
of students.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

In this engaging animal crossword activity, students complete a crossword by describing and guessing different animals.

Procedure

Begin the activity by writing the following clues on the board one at a time:

This animal is very small.
It lives in most countries.
It has a long tail.
It likes cheese.

As you write each sentence, ask the students to guess the name of the animal (mouse).

Tell the students that they are going to write similar clues for an animal crossword.

Divide the class into two groups (A and B). Give each student a corresponding worksheet.

Explain that the students in both groups have the same crossword, but Group A has the words down and Group B has the words across. Working together, the students invent and write down clues for the animals written on their crossword.

The clues might cover things like what the animal looks like, where it lives, what it eats, etc.

All the students should write the clues on their own worksheet.

When the students have finished writing, they pair up with someone from the other group (Student A and B).

Have the pairs of students sit face to face. Tell the students not to show their crossword to their partner.

The students then take it in turns to ask their partner for a clue to one of their missing words, e.g. 'What's four across?' Their partner reads out the clue for that word and the other student tries to guess the name of the animal.

If the student guesses the animal successfully, they write it on their crossword. If not, their partner continues to give more clues until the student is able to guess the animal.

When the students have finished, they check their spelling by comparing crosswords.

Note: This resource can be edited using a PDF editor.

Student A

The crossword puzzle grid contains the following letters:

- 1 G, O, A
- 2 M, O, N, K
- 3 C
- 4 H, T
- 5 A
- 6 S
- 7 W, O, L, F
- 8 C
- 9 E, Y
- 10 M
- 11 S, P, I, D, E
- 12 L, N, Z, E
- 13 E, A
- 14 A, T
- 15 D
- 16 G, O
- 17 L, R
- 18 O, R
- 19 R, E
- 20 A, B, B, I, T
- 21 T, O, P, U, S
- 22 T, I, G, E, R

A. Write clues for the words down.

1.
2.
3.
5.
6.
7.
8.
11.
14.
18.
20.
22.

B. Ask your partner for clues to the missing words and complete your crossword, e.g. 'What's four across?'

Student B

1
H I P P O P O T A M U S

2
Z E B R A

3
H A M S T E R

4
D O L P H I N

5
C H E E T A H

6
P A N D A

7
S E A L

8
G I R A F F E

9
K A N G A R O O

10
L O B S T E R

11
T U R T L E

12
S H A R K

A. Write clues for the words across.

- 4.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 19.
- 21.
- 23.

B. Ask your partner for clues to the missing words and complete your crossword, e.g. 'What's four down?'