Switch Zoo animals and habitats

Year 3 /4

HIAS English Team
Spring 2020
Final version

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Using the Home Learning Materials

The materials

- Each writing booklet contains a sequence of 5 lessons.
- You should set aside time to complete each of the lessons in order.
- Each lesson will take no more than 30 mins to complete.

How to use

- Read the instructions carefully before you start a task.
- Each lesson has a simple explanation and examples to get you started.

How can parents, carers and siblings help?

- Read the extracts aloud with your child
- Collect interesting words and phrases on paper / post-its as they read
- Talk to your children about their ideas before they write
- Adapt any of the resources and materials as you feel necessary to support your child's needs

5 day writing sequence

This sequence works well before or after *Big Blue Whale and San Diego Zoo* unit. Use the fun websites below or download the 'Switch Zoo' app.

https://switchzoo.com/make_play.htm

https://switchzoo.com/map.html

https://switchzoo.com/animallist.htm

https://www.marwell.org.uk/zoo/explore/animals-at-marwell

The outcome of this unit is to create your own imaginative animal and habitat, then choose one of the writing challenges you would like to do.

Teaching sequence:

1) Make and play
2) Research
3) Explore vocabulary
4) Plan
5) Writing challenge

Switch Zoo animals and habitats

https://switchzoo.com/make_play.htm
https://switchzoo.com/map.html

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Lesson 1 – Make and play

Create your own animal by selecting the head, tail and legs.

Habitats to choose from are suitable for an elephant, dog, cheetah, bison, bear, zebra, rhino or pig.

Use the website or the Switch Zoo App.

Lesson 1 – Make and play

Have fun playing with the website or App. Create the craziest and funniest animals you can think of. The app even lets you add sound effects!

Experiment with changing the habitat, legs, tail and heads.

Now aim to create a really great animal that would be useful if it existed.
Is it really strong?
Will it survive extreme weather?
Would it be helpful to humans?

Choose an imaginative name for your new animal.

Print it out if you can.

Lesson 2 – Research

https://switchzoo.com/animallist.htm
https://www.marwell.org.uk/zoo/explore/animals-at-marwell

Using the websites above, books from home, your own knowledge and imagination, build a profile of facts about your animal. Complete the grid on the next page.

What does it look like?
How does it move?
Where does it live?
What does it eat?

Lesson 2 – Research

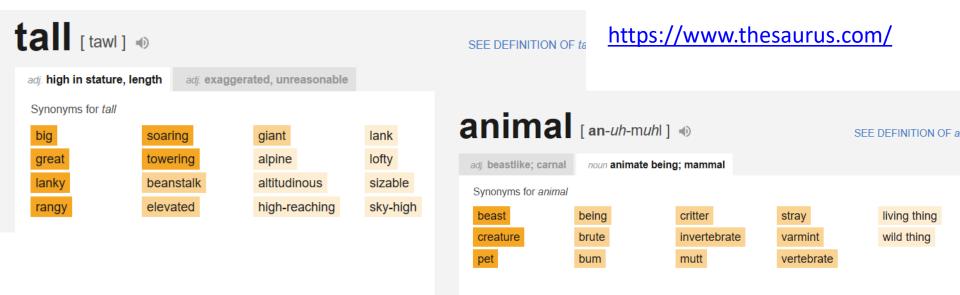| What does it look like?	Where does it live?	How does it move?
What does it eat?	Other eg. is it a friendly pet or a wild animal?	Fun facts

Lesson 3 – Explore vocabulary

Use an online thesaurus to find synonyms to improve word choices from your grid yesterday.

Don't just choose any word the thesaurus suggests though – just the appropriate ones for the animal you designed. Perhaps choose the 3 you think are the best choices.

Complete the grid on the next page.

tall [tawl] 🔊

SEE DEFINITION OF ta

https://www.thesaurus.com/

adj. **high in stature, length**   *adj.* exaggerated, unreasonable

Synonyms for *tall*

big	soaring	giant	lank
great	towering	alpine	lofty
lanky	beanstalk	altitudinous	sizable
rangy	elevated	high-reaching	sky-high

animal [an-*uh*-m*uh*l] 🔊

SEE DEFINITION OF a

adj. beastlike; carnal   *noun* **animate being; mammal**

Synonyms for *animal*

beast	being	critter	stray	living thing
creature	brute	invertebrate	varmint	wild thing
pet	bum	mutt	vertebrate	

■ MOST RELEVANT

Lesson 3 – Explore vocabulary

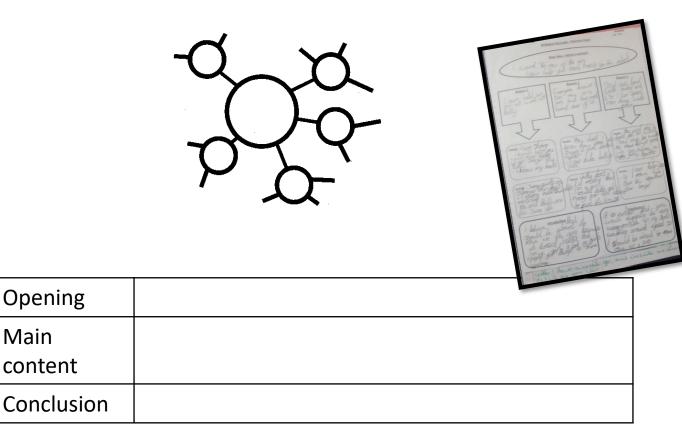| animal	wild thing, creature, brute

Challenge:

If you want to, put some of the new words into interesting sentences to show your understanding.

Lesson 4 - Plan

Have a look at the writing challenges for lesson 5. Choose the one you would most like to write.

Plan your ideas in whatever form you prefer, so you are ready to write tomorrow.

Opening	
Main content	
Conclusion	

Lesson 5 – Writing challenge

Choose one from the following writing challenges:

1) Write a letter to the Natural History Museum. You have found an incredible creature on your travels and would like it to be registered for everyone to know about. You will need to explain everything you know about the animal.

2) Create an information leaflet about the animal, including how it moves, what it eats, where it lives etc. You can make it funny if you want to!

3) You are a zookeeper and have a new animal to look after. Write instructions on how to look after the animal so other zookeepers can help you.

Think about quality not quantity – how will you engage your reader?

HIAS English team

The HIAS English team offer a wide range of high-quality services to support schools in improving outcomes for learners, including courses, bespoke consultancy and in-house training.

During the current school closures, we are still offering school support in a variety of ways such as video conferencing, phone calls and bespoke creation of resources remotely. Coming soon will be teacher training via virtual classrooms. We would be happy to discuss your needs.

For further details referring to English, please contact:
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For further details on the full range of services available please contact us using the following details:

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