

American Montessori Society & schleich® Video 5 – Diurnal & Nocturnal Animals Lesson

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Ideal for Ages: 4 to 6

Materials Needed for Lesson:

- classroom mat
- basket of schleich® animals
- two card labels for diurnal and nocturnal printed on cardstock

schleich® animal suggestions include:

Diurnal animals:

- 42376 Both girl and dog from this set can be used
- 13802 Simmental Calf
- 13825 Rooster
- 14763 Elephant Calf
- 13824 Drake

Nocturnal animals:

- 14782 fox
- 14842 Badger
- 14828 racoon
- 14855 Beaver
- 14852 Slow Loris
- 14818 White tail buck

Directions:

- Teacher will bring basket with cards and animals to mat.
- Teacher will select a card, read the label and give the child a brief description of what the word on the card means.
- Teacher will then pick out the animals one by one and place them under the corresponding card.

Facts – Talking Points for Lesson:

- Diurnal animals are animals that are active during the day then sleep at night. These animals have good daylight vision. They eat during the day and fall asleep at night. (Give example of human schedule, our schedule, etc.)
- Nocturnal animals are animals that are active at night and sleep during the day. Some can be seen during the day, but they usually spend their whole day resting. Some have special eyesight that makes it easier for them to hunt.

Printable Cards:



Lesson Extension Suggestion: Crepuscular (kruh-puh-skyuh-lr) animals

- Crepuscular animals are active primarily during the twilight period. This is often associated with dawn and dusk. (Explain different parts of the day.)
- These animals are not “night owls” they enjoy their naps!
- It is easier for crepuscular animals to hunt at these times to avoid predators.
- Desert animals that are crepuscular are able to escape the midday heat and the chill from the late-night days by hunting at dusk or dawn.
- Examples include: lynx, housecat, rabbit, jaguar, snakes, deer, red fox, and wolf.

Printable Card:

