

Lesson Plan for Classification Line - Vertebrates

- Objectives:**
- The student will learn to observe the characteristics of the five classes of vertebrates -- reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds, and mammals.
 - The student will learn to differentiate between the classes of vertebrates.
 - The student will practice sorting and analytical skills.

- Preparation:**
1. Print out the Vertebrate Classification Line.
 2. Find pictures to illustrate each sheet of the classification line. Paste them on the line (under the list of members of the group) before laminating the sheets.
 3. Find sets of flash cards illustrating the 5 classes of animals or obtain small books, cut them apart, and laminate the pictures of appropriate animals. The Audubon series (approx. size = 4 x 6) furnishes excellent photographs which seem to be enhanced when they are laminated.
 4. For advanced students, you may want to include pictures of some animals that are not vertebrates to help them develop analytical skills.
 5. For younger students, you may want to put a coding dot on the back of each card: a different color for each class of animals.

- Materials:**
1. Laminated copies of each of the sheets -- Animals With Backbones, Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish, Birds, and Mammals.
 2. Picture cards of vertebrates that have information concerning the animal.

- Procedure:**
1. Lay the pages of the Classification Line on a long table, or on the floor.
 2. Have each student choose a card, and place it on the sheet where it belongs.
 3. Ask the student why he chose that spot. Students' answers should relate to the characteristics of the animal. For instance, if a student had a bird, put it in the correct place, an appropriate answer would be, "This animal has feathers and two feet."
 4. Proceed until all students have had a turn.
 5. After the activity has been introduced, it may be put in a learning center, or where students can use it in their free time.

- Extension:**
1. Give the student one page of the Classification Line and the appropriate outline form.
 2. Instruct the student to enter the characteristics of the Class of vertebrates in the appropriate spaces on the outline form.
 3. Tell the student to find some animals that belong to this group and enter their names in the spaces on the outline form. The cards used for sorting on the classification line could be used, or you could have students find the information from other sources.

Note: Templates and instructions for making your own Classification Lines are available from Senari Programs, 23 Nob View Circle, Little Rock, AR 72205. Phone: (501) 225-2796; FAX: (501) 225-7846; email: senari@aol.com. Our website is <http://home.earthlink.net/~senari>.

Illustrated Classification Lines currently available are: Mammals, Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles, Vertebrates, and Birds.