

MAMMALS

BEFORE 2: *Born in The Wild*: Read Aloud

Before your visit to introduce students to the idea that mammal babies look similar, but not the same as their parents. Also, an opportunity to identify life needs and how animals meet those needs.

Standards Addressed: Science (2018): Foundation Block 5. K.1, K.7. 1.1, 1.5; 2.1, 2.4, 2.5. English (2017): Foundation Block 5. K.9, K.12, 1.10, 1.14, 2.8, 2.12

Materials

- *Born in the Wild* by Lita Judge (read-aloud video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07UROxePVWw>)

Lesson Preparation

1. Pre-read the text. Identify any potential challenges for your students.
2. The basic outline is as follows:
 - a. Babies take different amounts of time to grow up.
 - i. Some babies are born tiny, some are born ready to run
 - b. All baby mammals need milk to drink.
 - i. As they get older, they eat different foods
 - c. All babies need protection
 - i. Some blend in with their environments
 - ii. Some are protected by mothers
 - iii. Some are protected by a big family!
 - d. Babies need shelter
 - i. Some build nests
 - ii. Some dig holes
 - iii. Some find homes in hollow trees and caves
 - e. Babies usually need to stay with their parents to learn
 - i. Some babies are carried
 - ii. Others can run!
 - f. Babies are parts of a family
 - i. Some families are small
 - ii. Some families are big
 - iii. Some families are HUGE
 - g. Babies need to stay clean and to be cuddled to be healthy. Adults take care of the babies.
 - h. Play makes babies strong and helps them learn skills
 - i. Baby predators play at hunting
 - ii. Babies play games that help them learn to climb, jump, swing, or swim



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- iii. They learn to make sounds to communicate and how to build the things they need
3. Plan your reading instruction to suit your students' literacy needs.

Instructional Strategy

1. Read the book out loud. Ask students to identify the needs of the babies and how those needs are met.
2. Next discuss each of the needs. Ask students if they can think of other ways that animal babies meet their life needs. Create a list of ideas.
3. Ask students to make a drawing of an animal baby having its needs met. If applicable, have students write an explanatory sentence for their illustration.

Specials Extension

- Work with the art instructor to turn student drawings into a book.
- Collaborate with the PE teacher to have students move like baby animals at play, running or hiding from predators.

