



# Key Stage 2 Lesson Plan – Which Pet Is Right For You?

## Main welfare aims

The main aim of this activity is to give children the opportunity to think carefully about the needs of different pet animals and to come to their own conclusions about how difficult or easy different pets are to look after.

## Curriculum links

English Spoken Language Programme of Study:

- articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions
- participate in discussions, presentations, performances and debates
- consider and evaluate different viewpoints, attending to and building on the contributions of others

Science Programme of Study:

- identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food
- develop ideas about everyday phenomena and the relationships between living things and familiar environments

PSHE links with personal responsibility and living in the wider world

## Resources needed

Please find photos of the pet animals printed off for each group below.



## Starter (10 minutes)

As a class discuss who has pet animals. Ask:

- Who looks after them?
- How much space do they take?
- How much time do you think it takes to look after your pet?
- How expensive do you think your pet is to look after?

## Main (30 minutes)

- Split the class into groups of 4-6 and hand each group the photos of the different pets
- Their task is to order the pet photos from the easiest to look after to the hardest
- To help them do this they are going to have to order the photos three times
  - » The first time they need to order the photos in order of the amount of **space** that pet needs
  - » The second time they need to order the photos in order of the amount of **time** they need
  - » The third time they need to order the photos in order of the amount of **money** you might need to keep that pet
  - » They then have to take account of all three – space, time and money – and create a final order for the easiest to the hardest pet to look after.

## Plenary (20 minutes)

- Ask each group to come to the front of the class and hold the pictures in the order they decided on, from hardest to easiest.
- One person from the group can explain why they made their decisions.
- Round up the lesson by letting them know which group got the order correct. The answer is: that **they all got the order correct for them**. Some pets are right for some people, and other pets are right for other people. Some people have little time but money and space. Some people have little space but lots of time. It's important that when you choose a pet you think about all of the things they have been thinking about today and choose the type of pet that is right for them.

## Differentiation

To make this simpler, ask the children to focus on just one of the three things to consider – time, space or money. The most difficult aspect of the activity is when they have to consider all three at once and put them into an order.

This lesson could be extended into a short project. Each child in the group could be given a pet to research for homework prior to the lesson. They could then be the 'expert' in their group on that pet. As an extension to the work, a persuasive argument could be written on why they think a particular pet is the best pet to have, or perhaps a factual non-chronological piece of writing about caring for a particular pet could be produced.









