

UNIT 7: ANIMALS

LEARNING TO DESCRIBE ANIMALS.

Dear language assistant,

1. Show the meaning of some words specially those which are highlighted. You can use pictures from the Internet if you like :
 - b. Places where they live: **land animals, aquatic animals.**
 - c. Size of the animal: large, small, medium sized...
 - d. Shape of the body: round, long, flat
 - e. Main parts of the body. Body divided in **head, trunk and limbs** (human being) or divided in head, thorax and abdomen (insects), head and tentacles (octopus)...
 - f. Limbs or extremities: **legs, wing, fin,** (forelimbs and hind legs), forefeet, **claw** (garra), hoof (pezuña), nail (uña, fingernail, toenail).
 - g. Others: **tail, antler, antenna** or feeler, **beak**
 - h. Skin covered in **hair (or coat), feathers, scales.** Amphibians have bare skin.
 - i. Hard parts: **bones, shells.**

2. I would like you to describe an animal and the students have to guess it. You can talk about physical features, the place it lives, about the group it belongs to... (Duck, bear). Someone can draw it on the board as you are describing it. You can also create an imaginary animal.

3. We can ask for one volunteer who moves to the board and we can write an animal name behind him/her. He/she will have to ask to their mates in order to find out the name of the animal: Has it got wings? Does it belong to vertebrates?... Then you can ask the students to write several questions that they can use to find out a mysterious animal. After that we can repeat the guess several times (Ant, dolphin, worm, grasshopper, crocodile, sheep).

4. You can describe a mysterious animal and pupils will do a drawing meanwhile you are saying its characteristics. (Difficult words in italics letters)
 - It is a land animal.
 - It isn't very big.
 - Its body is divided in head, trunk and limbs.
 - The mysterious animal head is round but not very big. It has no ears.
 - Its face is *whitish* and seems to be *smiling*.
 - It has a long neck, as long as its head.
 - The mysterious animal is all covered in hair.
 - Its *coat* is greyish-brown and in some places it's green.
 - It has four legs. They are long and the *forelimbs* are longer than the *hind limbs*.
 - Legs *end in narrow, curved* feet.
 - The forefeet have two toes (digits) and the hind feet have three toes.
 - Each toes ends in a *claw*.
 - Average weight is 5 to 6 kg.
 - They eat leaves, *twigs* and fruit.

- They live in trees and they are *hanging upside down*.
- It moves very slowly. Just one leg each time, then rest, another leg, rest, another step, rest and so on. It runs 5 metres per hour.
- It moves so slowly that *predators* can't see it. Besides, it is active only at night.
- Essentially all normal activity (eating, sleeping, *mating and giving birth*) occurs hanging upside down. An exception to this is *urination and defecation*, which does occur on the ground once each seven or eight days.
- On the ground the movements are even slower because its legs are not strong enough *to hold its weight*.
- Imagine you study this animal for a day. You will find It spends
 - 18 hours sleeping everyday (Would you like to sleep so much?)
 - 1,5 hours eating. (Remember it's a vegetarian animal)
 - 3 hours moving very slowly
 - 1,5 hours resting
- It *isn't worried* about its hygiene. On the coat there are hundreds of bugs. You can see in the skin of this animal *beetles, moths, ticks...* 978 beetles have been seen in one mysterious animal...
- Algae can grow on its coat. That's why it looks like green.
- Some animals can feed of these algae like *caterpillar* (silkworm is a carterpillar that pupils have in their homes). So, besides of the beetles you can see many caterpillars and if you're lucky you can see butterflies starting their first flight from our mysterious animal.
- You can think this animal is dirty and horrible but it's very good avoiding its enemies (eagles, snakes, jaguars) using camouflage.
- Now I'm going to say its name. It is a sloth (perezoso in Spanish, its scientific name is *Choleopus hoffmani*) and lives in the jungles of South and Central America.