Lesson 1: Amani's Animal Rescue Needs You!

UNIT: Amani's Animal Rescue

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, it's Walker. I want to tell you about my friend Amani and the animal rescue center he started. Amani's Animal Rescue Center helps baby animals that have lost their parents. At the rescue center, Amani helps kittens and puppies, but he also helps baby wild animals, like these. Amani and the staff at the rescue center take care of the baby wild animals until they are big enough to return to the wild and take care of themselves.

Visitors come to the rescue center to see the animals. To answer questions about the wild animals, Amani writes a sign for each one. Amani thinks that writing about wild animals is a great way to get to know them. He thinks the students who come to visit the center would have fun writing signs, so he'd like you to give it a try.

Two new baby animals have just arrived at the rescue center. You will choose one of these animals to write about, either an adorable armadillo or a super cute kangaroo rat.

But before you make your choice, let's see how Amani gets ready to write a sign.

Right now, he's writing a sign for this tiny baby squirrel that someone just brought in. To see what this baby will look like when it grows up, watch this.

Wow! That baby squirrel is a flying squirrel.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What questions do you have about flying squirrels?

HOOK 2

Amani has questions about flying squirrels, too. To find answers, he watches videos of flying squirrels in the wild. Here's a video that Amani watched—it shows flying squirrels in the forest at night.

When Amani watches videos, he writes down interesting things he notices, like:

- It looks like it has wings
- It flies a long way
- It runs up the tree

He also writes down his questions, like:

- How does it fly?
- Why does it fly?
- How does it climb the tree?

Of all Amani's questions, the one that interested him most is: Why does it fly?

Amani looked for videos that would help him figure that out. When he found a video of a cat chasing an ordinary squirrel up a tree, he knew the answer. Maybe you know it, too.

Small animals are always trying to escape big animals that want to eat them. Amani realized the squirrel was flying to get away from a hungry animal, like maybe a tree climbing cat.

Amani decided to make his sign about how the flying squirrel protects itself from its enemies. That's the main idea that he will be writing about. In fact, he decided that all the signs should be about how animals protect themselves.

When you write your sign, your assignment is to write about the ways that your animal protects itself from its enemies.

Now you are going to choose your animal and get ready to write your sign.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

You'll be working with a partner. When everyone has a partner, click the arrow to go to the next step.

STEP 3

To help you choose which animal to write about, we'll show videos of what each baby will be like when it grows up. Watch these before you decide.

Click the arrow to go to the next step.

STEP 4

We'll start with the armadillo. Watch this video to see what happens when this armadillo gets scared.

STEP 5

Now for the kangaroo rat. Watch carefully. When the kangaroo rat is scared, it moves fast. We slowed this video down so you can see what's happening.

STEP 6

Now choose the animal you want to write about. On your Think Sheet, circle the animal you choose.

Beside the word "Topic," write the name of your animal.

STEP 7

Look at what's right below where you wrote your animal's name. Amani wants you to write about the ways that your animal protects itself—that's your "Main Idea."

When you're ready, click the arrow to go to the next step.

STEP 8

We'll show you videos of both animals again. Watch your animal.

On your Think Sheet, write about what your animal does to protect itself. Don't worry if you get stuck. You'll have some more time in the next step. Use the Word Bank if that helps. You need to write or draw at least one interesting thing about your animal, but you can write more if you want.

STEP 9

Now that you've watched the video, you know something that your animal does to protect itself. But thinking of words and writing them down at the same time can be hard. So, try this—instead of writing, tell your partner what your animal did.

Then write the words you said on your Think Sheet.

STEP 10

Both these animals have more than one way to escape their enemies.

Here's a different video of the animals. On your Think Sheet, write about what your animal does in this video to protect itself.

First, we will watch the armadillo, and then we will watch the kangaroo rat.

STEP 11

On the back of your Think Sheet, write down any questions you have about your animal.

STEP 12

The papers shown on the screen are V.I.P.s—very important papers. Your teacher will tell you where to put them so you will have them for the next lesson.

WRAP UP

In the next lesson, you'll get a picture of your animal with notes about other interesting things to know. Then, you'll start turning your ideas into a sign for Amani's Animal Rescue Center.

I'll see you next time.