

Creature Features

Approach: One to one interview

Level: Year 4 only

Resources: Set of 10 cards :
 monarch butterfly, fantail, rooster, dog,
 dragonfly, pig, horse, bee, ant, kiwi;
 set of 4 extra cards:
 spider, weta, whale, bat;
 laminated chart:

Bird				
Insect				
Mammal				

Questions/instructions

Show the student the chart they will be using and hand them the set of 10 cards.

Note that the cards should be in the order 1 to 10.

1. Here are some cards. I would like you to sort them, then put them into the 3 groups on the chart.

7 out of 10 cards classified correctly

%

responses

year 4

90

kiwi identified as mammal (incorrect)

13

rooster identified as mammal (incorrect)

19

butterfly identified as bird (incorrect)

10

as mammal (incorrect)

4

2. First, look at the card you have on the second square of birds.

feathers

30

What card have you put on the second bird square.

wing

51

How do you know it is a bird?

flies

33

Prompt: What makes a bird different from other animals?

beak

40

eggs

12

3. Now let's look at the card you have on the second insect square.

six legs

31

How do you know it is an insect?

segmented body

6

Prompt: What makes an insect different from other animals?

4. What card do you have on the second mammal square.

live young

15

How do you know that is a mammal?

feed young

11

Prompt: What makes a mammal different from other animals?

warm blood

22

Now I am going to give you some more cards and I want you tell me if these belong in any of your groups.

5. Here is a spider. Does a spider belong in any of your groups?

insect

63

Why do you say that?

✓ does not fit

34

6. Here is a whale. Does a whale belong in any of your groups?

✓ mammal

81

Why do you say that?

does not fit

19

7. Here is a weta. Does a weta belong in any of your groups?

✓ insect

91

Why do you say that?

does not fit

5

8. Here is a bat. Does a bat belong in any of your groups?

✓ mammal

39

Why do you say that?

bird

39

does not fit

21