

Topics: Biology, Animals, Sorting & Classifying

Materials List

- ✓ File folder
(Optional: Laminate the folder before use for greater durability)
- ✓ EVA foam or heavy cardstock
- ✓ Animal shapes, use mounted pictures or die cuts (die-cuts available at RAFT)
- ✓ Envelope (for animal storage)
- ✓ Permanent marker

This activity can be used to teach:

- Observations of Organisms (Next Generation Science Standards: Grade K, Life Science 1-1, Grade 2, Life Science 4-1)
- Organisms and survival (Next Generation Science Standards: Grade 3, Life Science 4-3)

Born From an Egg

Sorting Animals by How They Arrived Into the World



In this activity for primary learners, students sort animals into 2 categories: those born from an egg and those not born from an egg.

Assembly

1. Label each side of the file folder (opened) with a permanent marker: “Egg” using words and/or pictures and “No Egg” using words and/or pictures.
2. Hand cut or die-cut animal shapes from EVA foam or heavy cardstock. The table below provides suggestions of animals that fit each category.

Sample Animal shapes or pictures:	
From an Egg	Not From an Egg
Turtle	Tiger
Spider	Bat
Fish	Elephant
Ladybug	Giraffe
Bird	Rat

3. Optional: Code the answer on the back of each animal shape so that students may check their work.
4. Alternate assembly: Cut animal pictures (or have students cut pictures) from old magazines to mount on cardstock.

To Do and Notice

1. Lay out the animals on a table alongside the prepared folder.
2. Optional: Sort the animals, making a best guess of where they belong.
3. Place the animals in the correct location on the file folder according to the egg laying criteria. Determine correct locations via a code or verbal instructions.

The Science Behind the Activity

Egg laying is the most common form of embryonic development for animal reproduction. Although many young people initially think only birds lay eggs, this activity helps them realize that a vast array of animals lay eggs, including insects, reptiles, and fish. There are even 2 egg laying mammals (monotremes): the platypus and the echidna. The amount of care provided to eggs by parents varies greatly as well: penguins sit on eggs and newly hatched chicks to keep them warm; alligators protect and teach their young for months; turtles are on their own from day 1.

Sorting and classifying are valuable tools for scientists to help analyze commonalities and differences. Today, scientists use DNA analysis (i.e. mitochondrial DNA) and other methods to create “trees of life” that illustrate interrelations amongst species.

Taking it Further

To make this activity more challenging for more advanced students, include animals that are unusual or might spark questions or conversations, such as the platypus (egg laying mammal), the whale (ocean mammal), and the seahorse (male carries the eggs and delivers hatched young).

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=311 for more resources!)

Egg laying animals - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/adaptations/Oviparity>

Egg laying mammals - <http://www.factzoo.com/mammals/monotremes.html>