

Animal Balderdash

A game of animal trivia where students come up with the answers.

Curriculum Connection

**Alberta Education Program of Studies:
English Language Arts (2000)**

Grade 4

General Outcome 4

Express ideas and develop understanding

- compare new ideas, information and experiences to prior knowledge and experiences

5.2 Work Within a Group

Cooperate with others

- take responsibility for collaborating with others to achieve group goals
- ask for and provide information and assistance, as appropriate, for completing individual and group tasks

Grade 5

5.2 Work Within a Group

Work in groups

- contribute ideas to help solve problems, and listen and respond constructively

Grade 6

1.1 Discover and Explore

Express ideas and develop understanding

- engage in exploratory communication to share personal responses and develop own interpretations

5.2 Work Within a Group

Cooperate with others

- assume a variety of roles, and share responsibilities as a group member

Materials

- **Animal Balderdash Cards**
- Scrap pieces of paper for writing responses.
- Pencils for keeping score.

The Game

Setting up

- Divide students into groups of four or five.
- Hand out **Animal Balderdash** Cards face down with scraps of paper—each student will need about 10 scraps of paper for recording their answers.
- Copy the Scoring Guide (see next page) on the board so students know how to award points at the end of each round.
- You could do an example question to familiarize students with how to play the game.

Game Instructions

1. Students take turns being the “Reader.” The “Reader” takes the first card from the stack and reads the question aloud to the group (but DOES NOT read the answer!)
2. The “Reader” then copies the answer onto a scrap piece of paper.
3. All of the other players write an answer for that question. If they don’t know the answer they can make one up! The more creative the answer, the better. Players put their names on their answers before handing it back to the “Reader”.
4. The “Reader” then reads all the answers aloud—including the correct answer. (Don’t read the names!) Students take turns selecting which answer they think is correct.
5. Using the Scoring Guide, students tally up their own points from the round.
6. Another student becomes the reader and game instruction steps 1-5 are repeated.

Animal Balderdash (continued)

Scoring Guide

3 points if you **wrote down** the correct answer

2 points if you **guessed the correct** answer (the one the reader wrote)

1 point if another student thought your answer was the correct one.

Follow up: Journaling

Once groups are finished their game ask them to create a journal entry about their experience.

Write the following questions on the board for students to respond to.

1. Which animal fact did you think was the most interesting? Why?
2. What other questions can you think of that would help you learn more about this animal?

Students could create a KWL chart.

Notes for the Teacher:

On average, how much water do horses need to drink every day? (Think about how many 2 litre milk cartons of water they would drink)

Horses on average need 22 L of water, however depending on the weather or the amount of exercise, the requirement can increase.

Why do dogs have wet noses?

Wet noses help dogs smell better; odours stick better to something that is wet.

If a guinea pig is in a relaxed posture and very happy he will do this.

Guinea pigs, which are actually from South America and are rodents, not pigs, will make a purring sound when they feel content.

Why do goats nibble on everything?

Contrary to popular belief, goats are very finicky eaters. They will nibble on garbage, buttons or tin cans because they are curious and exploring, not because they are trying to eat.

Why do bats hang upside down?

It's easier for them to take off and fly if they are upside down. Bats aren't good at standing up or running, so getting off the ground isn't very easy for them.

Horse height are measured in this unit.

Horse height is measured in hands. One hand = 10.16 cm. The tallest living horse is Big Jake from the United States, measured at 20 hands high.

When their cats died, what did ancient Egyptians do to show their sorrow?

In ancient Egypt cats were highly revered. The death of a feline was treated seriously and members of the family would shave off their eyebrows as a sign of mourning. Arrangements would then be made for the dead animal to be embalmed, mummified then buried.

Teacher instructions: Print the cards double sided onto cardstock, then cut them out. Print one set of cards per group of students.

<p>On average, how much water do horses need to drink every day? (Think of how many 2 litre milk cartons of water they would need)</p> <p>Answer: They need 11 milk cartons of water or 22 L.</p>	<p>What causes chimpanzees to smile?</p> <p>Answer—They smile when they are scared.</p>
<p>Why do dogs have wet noses?</p> <p>Answer—Helps them smell better.</p>	<p>This percentage of tropical fish die from improper care?</p> <p>Answer—95%</p>
<p>If a guinea pig is in a relaxed posture and very happy he will do this.</p> <p>Answer—Purr like a cat.</p>	<p>Why do bats hang upside down?</p> <p>Answer—It’s easier for them to take off and fly if they are upside down.</p>
<p>Why do male seahorses have big bellies?</p> <p>Answer—In the seahorse family, it’s the dad that gets pregnant.</p>	<p>When their cats died, what did ancient Egyptians do to show their sorrow?</p> <p>Answer—They shaved off their eyebrows.</p>
<p>Why do goats nibble on everything?</p> <p>Answer—Goats nibble on things because they are curious and exploring.</p>	<p>Horse height is measured in this unit. (Hint there are lots of them around the classroom)</p> <p>Answer—They are measured in hands.</p>

Animal Balderdash

Animal Balderdash

Animal Balderdash

Animal Balderdash

Animal Balderdash

Animal Balderdash

Animal Balderdash

Animal Balderdash

Animal Balderdash

Animal Balderdash