

Lesson/Activity Title:

PET WELLNESS LESSON PLAN



Time: 15-20 minutes for focus; 10-15 minutes for teach/model; 10-15 minutes for guided practice; 45-60 minutes for independent practice; 30 minutes for closure

Instructional Goals:

- Students will use the **PebbleGo Animals** online database to research animals that may be kept as pets.
- Students will learn about National Pet Wellness Month and identify specific ways to help care for a pet of their choice.
- Students will take notes using a provided handout.
- Students will create an educational animal wellness poster.

Integrated Content Standards

- Next Generation Science Standards (www.nextgenscience.org/)
- AASL Standards Framework for Learners (<http://standards.aasl.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/AASL-Learner-Framework-Spread.pdf>)
- Common Core English Language Arts/Literacy Standards (www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/)
- National Educational Technology Standards for Students (<https://www.iste.org/standards/for-students>)
- NCTE/IRA Standards for English Language Arts (www.ncte.org/standards/ncte-ira)

Materials/Resources:

- Resources on National Pet Wellness Month (<https://www.avma.org/javma-news/2004-10-01/october-national-pet-wellness-month>)
- **PebbleGo Animals** online database
- **Pets Research** handout
- **Pet Wellness Poster** handout
- Art supplies

Procedures/Lesson Activities:

Focus

1. Gather students together and tell them that October is National Pet Wellness Month. Lead a discussion on what it means and why it is important. Refer to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) website (<https://www.avma.org/javma-news/2004-10-01/october-national-pet-wellness-month>) for more information. Ask questions like:
 - What do you think the word wellness means?
 - Why is important to take care of pets?

- If you currently have a pet at home or in the classroom, how do you take care of the pet's wellness needs?
 - Do you think all pets have the same wellness needs? Why or why not?
2. Record the students' responses as they discuss the different questions.
 3. Tell students that today's lesson will teach them about the health and wellness of a pet of their choosing.

Teach/Model

4. Demonstrate how to access the **PebbleGo Animals** database. Click the category "Pets and Farm Animals." Then select the subcategory "Pets." Next, choose the subcategory "Dogs." Finally, click on "Bichon Frises."
5. Show students how to use the read-aloud feature by clicking on the icon to the left of the text. Model navigating the article by clicking through tabs such as "Lifecycle" or "Fun Facts."
6. Distribute the **Pet Wellness Research** handout. Read the directions together.
7. Explain to students that they first need to choose a pet from the **PebbleGo Animals** online database. Then they will conduct research to learn about its health and wellness. Ask students to imagine that someone was interested in adopting their pet but didn't know how to care for it. They will create a sign that educates the person about the wellness of their pet.

Guided Practice

8. Refer students to the **Pet Wellness Research** handout and complete a bit of the handout with them. To assist with this demonstration, use the **PebbleGo Animals** article, "Bichon Frises."
9. Point out the bibliography section of the handout and demonstrate how to use the Cite button below the article.
10. Distribute the **Pet Wellness Poster** handout. Review the instructions that tell students they will create a sign to teach the adoptive family about the wellness of the pet. Discuss what information is important to include. Examples might be:
 - food and water needs
 - daily care needs
 - grooming and hygiene needs

Independent Practice

11. Have students access the **PebbleGo** Animals online database and fill out their Pet Wellness Research handout.
12. Walk around the room and answer questions the students might have about the Pet Wellness Research handout.

13. Provide the class with art materials needed to create their wellness poster. Encourage students to add illustrations and detail to their posters. Allow at least 20 minutes for completion.



Closure

14. Bring the class together to share posters. Ask students to explain why they chose their animal. Then ask them to explain how to properly care for their animal.

Extend/Enrich

Gather your class and write a persuasive letter to your local city council. It should encourage the council to recognize National Pet Wellness Month in your community. Include specific reasons to explain why your community should recognize it

Name: _____



Pet Wellness Research Handout

Use the **PebbleGo** Animals online database to research a pet.

My pet is a _____.

What does the pet look like? What is its size?

What is the pet's lifecycle?

How should a person care for the pet?

Fun facts about the pet:

Bibliography: _____

Name: _____



Pet Wellness Research Handout

Create a poster below. It will be for someone who wants to adopt your pet. Add all the facts you learned about your pet from the **PebbleGo Animals** online database. Illustrate your poster by drawing a picture of the pet.