

Activity 15



COUNTRY FAIR



STUDY QUESTION:

What is your favourite farm animal?

THE ACTIVITY:

In this activity children make individual models of their favorite animals and display them in a classroom simulation of a country fair.

SUBJECT AREA:

Science

CURRICULUM CONCEPTS:

LANGUAGE ARTS

Use appropriate forms of oral and written language: report.

SCIENCE

Plants and animals: describe proper care of animals; appreciate importance of providing necessary care for living things.

AGRICULTURE CONCEPTS:

Country fair: farm animals; exhibit.

PURPOSE

To introduce children to the concept of participating, judging, and spectating at a country fair.

To give children the opportunity to further develop language skills as they learn.

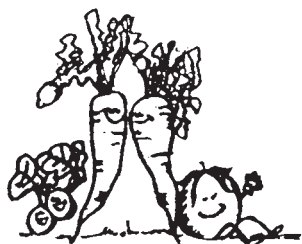
MATERIALS REQUIRED:

Pictures and books about various farm animals.

Information about local fairs and exhibitions. (Consult local D.A. office for information.)

TIME REQUIRED:

3-4 class periods.



PROCEDURE

Part One

Introduction

To introduce this activity ask the children if they have ever been to a Fair or Exhibition and if there are any differences between a Rural and Urban Fair. Explain to the children that they are going to create a model of a Fair in the classroom.

Part Two

Preparation

Use pictures and information about local farms, fairs and exhibitions as references for the class fair. Have plain pipe cleaners, clay, toothpicks, cardboard, paper and glue available to the children. Group together children who are making the same kind of animal.

Part Three

Crafting

Have the children make their animals and have each group prepare a display. They could use toothpicks or cardboard for building pens; grass or paper strips for animal beds; and construction paper for making signs.

Part Four

Touring/Exploring

Have each group prepare to conduct a tour of their section of the exhibition, offering the rest of the class information about the special characteristics and care of their particular kind of animal. Encourage the children to jot down, as a group, some of the items they want to mention in their talks.

Part Five

Conclusion

Hold the tours - the fair! As a class, "judge" each exhibit by telling its creators something appealing about it.

FOR DISCUSSION

What kinds of facilities are needed for a Country Fair?

What special care must be taken of the animals before and during the fair?

Why do we have Country Fairs or Exhibitions?

How do you judge a competition at a Country Fair?

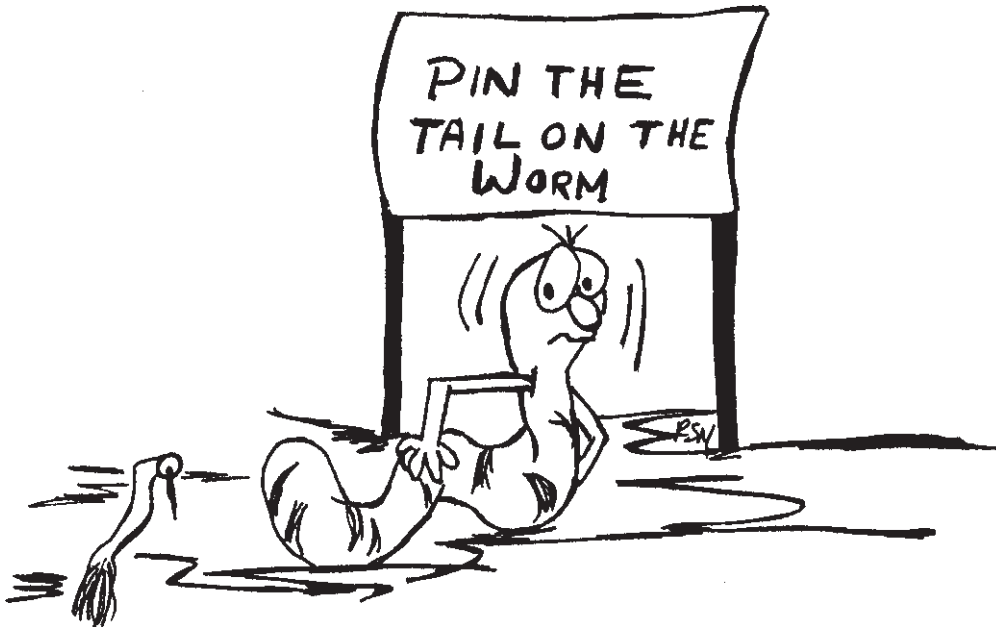
EVALUATION STRATEGIES

Have the children give their opinion of their own section based on originality, information, and construction. Then have them give their opinion on the whole country fair - what they liked/what they disliked. This can be written or oral.

Have the children write up a pamphlet advertising this country fair, which includes one or two lines about each section and a map of facilities.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Have each group prepare copies of a simple brochure advertising their particular animal. The brochures could be available at the children's fair.
2. Make a class visit to a local country fair.
3. Open the fair to parents and the rest of the school. Invite a representative from a local agriculture society (e.g. Northlands in Edmonton) to judge the exhibits. Co-ordinate this activity with those of other classes doing agricultural projects - e.g. during annual agricultural week in March.



TEACHER RESOURCE



TROUBLE AT THE COUNTRY FAIR

One day Slide was reading the paper and he spotted an advertisement for a Country Fair. At that moment he decided to take his friend Rocky, the steer, into the Country Fair. The day of the Fair came very quickly, but Slide felt that Rocky and he were ready. They set out early that morning to get there on time for the show. However, when they arrived Slide realized that he really was not prepared. He saw people washing, brushing, feeding, and leading their calves and he had not done much of anything with Rocky. So Slide decided he would wash Rocky, but he ended up getting kicked. When he tried to brush his steer, it squished him against the fence. Actually, the only thing Rocky would do without hurting Slide was eat. Finally, it was time for the show, so Slide led Rocky into the ring, but Rocky got scared and started running around dragging poor Slide behind. Slide, beat up by the hard ground, finally let go of the rope that was supposed to control Rocky. He wriggled around dazed for a while because he was hurting all over his body. However, the worst part is that he wandered in front of the Pin the Tail on the Worm Stand.

author - C.G. Bibby

NOTE:

Teachers can ask children to finish the story by saying what happened to Slide after he went in front of the stand. In addition, teachers can use the children's conclusions as a method of evaluation.

HI THERE EVERYONE!
SLIDE HERE ONCE AGAIN!

I have gotten worn out by all this wriggling around,
so I am going to rest a while in my home underground.

Though I wish to say a few words before I disappear,
and tell you that someday soon I shall reappear.

I have to admit that I had my eyes opened wide,
by all the helpful information that I found inside.

I hope that you learned alot about AGRICULTURE,
and with me as you guide it was quite an adventure.

If you have any suggestions please do not hesitate,
and you can rest assured that I shall investigate.

Well, I guess it is now time for me to say 'Good-Bye'
to all of you, my new friends, with a tear in my eye.

SEE YOU SOON!

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