



HYENAS



(800) 295-5010



Disney's ANIMAL WORLD

HYENAS

Objectives

The student in grades K-2 will:

- Become familiar with the physical characteristics of hyenas
- Learn how hyenas adapt to their environment
- Be introduced to the behavior of hyenas and their offspring

Synopsis

Through live-action footage, students observe hyenas on the African savannah. Clips from Disney animated films such as *The Lion King* further illustrate key facts about these hunters and scavengers. Students learn how they compete for food, mark their territory and defend it against other animals—and much more. Two short, fun quizzes help students focus on what they've learned.

Preview Questions

1. How are hyenas similar to dogs? How are they different?
2. What do you know about hyenas? Why do you think hyenas fight with lions in the wild?

Suggested Activities

1. Students may recognize many of the animals of the African savannah shown in the video; they may have seen them in picture books, movies, and/or trips to the zoo. Ask students to name savannah animals starting with the hyena. Invite each of them to draw or paint one of the animals in a grasslands setting. Then have them take turns being a “nature guide,” explaining how the animals interact.
2. Make a savannah food chain. Meet with students in a circle. Hand out self-sticking notes with the name of a savannah animal on each one (animals can be used more than once). Begin by holding a ball of string. Say, “I am a hyena. I need the lions so I can try to eat their food.” Then, holding one end of string, toss the ball to a student who is role-playing a lion. Continue until all the students are linked by the string. Stress that all the animals in the same habitat rely on each other to survive.
3. Remind students that a group of hyenas is called a clan. Help them brainstorm a list of other special words for animal groups. Examples: a pride of lions, a troop of monkeys, a school of fish, a herd of sheep, a flock of birds. Students might use the words in simple sentences such as “A school of fish swam by.” Encourage them to draw pictures to go with their sentences.

Subject:
Science

Running Time:
16 minutes



4. Read students a picture book on hyenas. Nonfiction children's books on this topic include *Hyenas* by Kevin J Holmes (Bridgestone Books, 1999) and *Here is the African Savannah* by Madeleine Dunphy (Hyperion, 1997). Invite students to tell about parts of the book that reminded them of facts they learned from the hyena's episode of *Disney's Animal World*.

On the DVD

Scene Selection

The program on this DVD is divided into 5 chapters. This allows the user to enter at different points in the program.

- Chapter 1: Survival of the Fittest
Chapter 2: Quiz Time 1
Chapter 3: One of a Kind
Chapter 4: Quiz Time 2
Chapter 5: Keeping the Grasslands Clean

DVD Activities

These classroom activities, found on the DVD, include relevant short scenes from the program.

Cousins

How are hyenas similar to dogs? How are they different?
Make a chart to compare and contrast hyenas and dogs.

Clean Up Crew

How do hyenas help keep the grassland clean? Why is that important?
Hyenas are scavengers. Use the library or Internet to find out more about scavengers.

Additional Resources

Disney Educational Productions

<http://www.Edustation.Disney.com>

This award-winning site contains additional activities and resources for use with this DVD.

African Wildlife Foundation

<http://www.awf.org/content/wildlife/detail/hyena>

This site contains facts and photos.

CyberSleuth Kids

<http://cybersleuth-kids.com/sleuth/Science/Animals/Mammals/Hyenas/>

This site has several links to information about hyenas, including folklore, photos and facts.

Kay E. Holekamp Lab

<http://hyenas.zoology.msu.edu/>

Dept. of Zoology, Michigan State University

