

Indoor Activity: Animals in Your Culture

In the United States animals are a huge part of our culture. However, there are many categories of animals in American culture. From pets in big cities to livestock on farms, animals affect us every day. For this activity look at the animals in your life and the roles they play. Ask yourself a few questions to see just how much your animal interactions influence you.

Do you have any pets?

- When you think about your day how many decisions does your family make around your pet?
- How much time and/or money does your family invest in your pet?
- Do your pets rely on you for resources?

Do you live on a farm?

- When you think about your day how many decisions does your family make around your animals or farm?
- Do you view your animals as pets?
- Do you rely on your animals for resources?

Do you see animals affecting the media?

- Do you see animals in movies?
- Do you see animals in marketing?
- Do read about animals in books?
- In the media what is portrayed as important about animals?



Could you imagine how different life would be without animals in our lives? For extra critical thinking, draw a picture highlighting the ways animals influence YOUR life.

Outdoor Activity: Ethnography in the Park

Anthropologists who study culture write their findings to be published in scientific documents called ethnographies. To compose an ethnography, anthropologists use multiple techniques to gather information. Interviews, field notes, and participant observations are all methods used by anthropologists. For this activity go to a local park and use the methods of anthropologists to understand the culture happening around you. With adult permission and supervision ask park goers questions about what they do at the park. Take notes on what you observe and ask park goers to teach you their park activities.

The purpose of the activity is to document the culture of a park. What does it mean and look like to be a park goer?



Supplies

- Adult Supervision
- A Notebook
- Writing Utensils
- Weather Appropriate Clothing