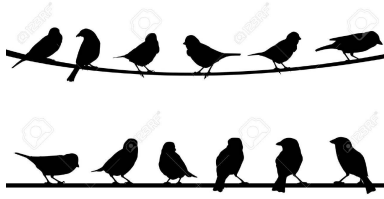


Find Your Group



Animals identify their own species, their own group, and their own families by several means, including sound, smell, and body movements. This is important in finding acceptance, avoiding fights, and identifying one's young among many. Some of the differences can be very subtle, but animals notice very small things. Can you?

Print and pass around enough slips with various sounds or movements on them, with multiples of each example (5 or so), so that each student has one. Now ask them to find their groups. All the birds who say, "chip chip chee," for example, group together but with no others. For non-readers, you can whisper their identifying sound in their ear.

By sound (birds)

Grp. 1. Chip chip chip

Grp. 2. Chip chee chip

Grp. 3. Chee up

Grp. 4. Chup chee

Grp. 5. Cheer up

Grp. 6. Chip cheer

By sound (frogs and toads)

1st grp: ba-rum, ba-rum;

2nd Grp: chee-me, chee-me

3rd grp: blat blat

4th grp: plllll (trill your tongue)

5th grp: peep peep peep

6th grp: whua whee

7th grp: chuck chuck

By body language: (probably used by all animal groups)

Hand each child a slip that describes one of the motions below, with about 3-5 kids getting each motion. Each does the motion assigned to find his/her group.

Hands at sides; wiggle your index finger

Hands at sides; wiggle your thumb

Blink rapidly

Long, slow blinks

Smile, lips together

Wide smile, showing teeth

By smell:

This takes extra preparation: Start with enough Q-tips for the entire group. Ahead of time, dip one end of each Q-tip in one of various liquid scents, e.g., peppermint, almond, lemon, dish soap, cinnamon oil, vanilla, etc. (Don't use scents that will color the cotton.) Keep one end dry. I'd recommend planning for 3-5 children to get the same scent. Put the prepared Q-tips in separate baggies, so that fragrances don't cross-contaminate. Hide baggies in a brown bag, with all the dry ends sticking out. Choose Q-tips so that they are given out randomly.

Now ask kids to find their group by scent.