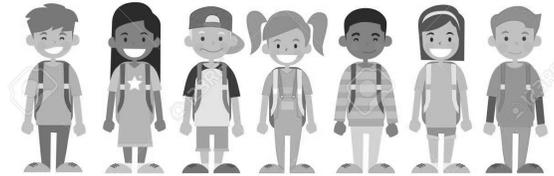


Simon Says (True or Not?)



Students make a line across back of the area. You will read a statement, and if a student thinks it is true, she/he will take a step forward. If it is false, in her opinion, she will stay in place. Any student who steps forward mistakenly (for “true” when your statement was false, e.g.), will be asked to take two steps back. The first to reach a line determined at the front of the area wins, but the game goes on for 2nd place, 3rd, etc.

Some ideas for topics and statements

Energy Cycle/Nature Helps Nature

- Earthworms help make healthy soil. (T)
- Predators are important for the environment. (T)
- We’d be better off without snakes. (F)
- The food (energy) web starts with the sun (T)
- Carnivores mostly eat plants (F)
- A vulture is a scavenger (eats dead animals). (T)
- Most predators are sometimes prey as well. (T)
- The energy from plants is taken up by herbivores when they eat. (T)
- Plants make the oxygen we breathe. (T)
- Without the sun, we’d be cold, but we’d still be OK. (F!)
- When an animal dies, its use on Earth is over. (F) *It gets decomposed so its chemical parts go back into the soil.*
- Bacteria are part of the energy cycle. (T) *They do the final bit of recycling*
- Dead trees should be removed from the woods and forest. (F) *They also decompose into a healthy soil, and, meanwhile, are food and homes to tiny animals.*

Plants use the carbon dioxide that we and other animals breathe out.

(T) *It's important for doing photosynthesis, or making their own food.*

We can help, too:

Picking up most of my trash is important, but the small bits don't count. (F)

(Animals eat small bits, or feed it to their young.)

Understanding Birds

All birds have feathers. (T)

Only birds have feathers. (T)

All birds eat worms. (F) Many prefer seeds, berries, bugs, etc.

All birds can fly. (F)

Feathers are made of the same stuff that hair is. (T) It's called keratin

All birds build nests. (F), owls, falcons, others don't

Most owls are nocturnal (T)

Birds preen (comb) their feathers to keep them clean and waterproof. (T)

All birds have lovely voices. (F) Some, like vultures, have none

Some birds nest on the ground. (T)

Birds have different beak shapes to help them eat different foods. (T)

A baby bird on the ground should be put back in its nest, if you can reach.

(T). It is a myth that the mother can smell you and will abandon the baby.

IF she could smell you, and she usually can't, she wouldn't care.

Birds migrate by checking maps. (F) They follow magnetic forces of the Earth

Many, many birds are killed by cats that are let outside. (T)

Songbirds are important for insect control. (T)

Hawks have excellent distance vision. (T)

Hummingbirds only eat flower nectar. (F) They also grab insects from the
air for protein

Owls have excellent distance vision. (F) Their ability is nighttime vision.

Owls have excellent hearing. (T)

You can't hear owls flap because their feathers are so soft. (T)

Understanding Mammals

- All mammals have hair or fur. (T) (at least at some time in their life)
- All mammal babies drink milk from their mothers. (T)
- All mammals have four legs. (F)
- Some mammals fly. (T), all the bats—but only bats
- Mammals never get cold (F). In the cold, they find protected places
- Whales are mammals. (T)
- Sharks are mammals. (F) They are fish
- Some mammals are cold-blooded. (F). They are all warm-blooded (make heat from inside their bodies)
- Except for a couple rare ones, mammals do not lay eggs, but give live birth. (T)
- People are mammals. (T)
- All mammals hibernate in the winter. (F) Only a few do
- Some mammals have different-colored fur in summer and winter. (T) such as arctic foxes
- Some mammals live in colonies (T) prairie dogs, ground squirrels
- Mother and father mammals both take care of their young. (F) It varies.
Wolves and fox dads help; cougar and bobcat dads don't.
- Some mammals must eat meat only. (T) the cat family
- Bats are the only animal that uses echolocation. (F) Whales and dolphins use it, too
- We can thank bats for our productive grain fields. (T) Bats eat millions of moths before the moths lay eggs, which hatch into grain-eating caterpillars.
- Beavers, porcupines, rats, and squirrels are all rodents. (T)
- Cottontail rabbits can outrun hares (jackrabbits). (F) It's the other way around. Hares have really long legs.
- Opossums are the only marsupial (animal with a pouch) in North America. (T)

Understanding Reptiles and Amphibians

- Reptiles have dry, scaly skin (unless they happen to be in the water) (T)
- Amphibians have moist skin. (T)
- Pond turtles are amphibians (F) They are reptiles, but they live in water.
- A turtle doesn't have a shell until after it hatches. (F)
- Some snakes eat other snakes (T), such as the kingsnake
- Reptiles can produce heat inside their bodies. (F)
- Snakes have eyelashes. (F) They don't even have eyelids, and can't blink.
- Many lizards eat bugs. (T)
- Amphibians have a poison on their skin. (T), sometimes mild, sometimes deadly
- All snakes are venomous. (F) Most are not.
- Some lizards eat plants. (T)
- Toads have longer legs than frogs. (F) It's the other way around.
- Reptiles lay their eggs in the sand. (T)
- Amphibians' skin lets air and water go both out and in. (T)
- A salamander is a kind of lizard. (F). Lizards are reptiles; salamanders are amphibians.
- The changes a frog goes through is called metamorphosis. (T)
- A lizard also goes through metamorphosis. (F)
- Snakes are helpful to people. (T) by eating lots of rodents
- A newt is a kind of salamander. (T)
- Amphibians lay their squishy eggs in water or wet places. (T)
- You can get warts by touching a toad. (F) That's a myth.
- If you kiss a frog, it becomes a prince. (F) That's another myth! (or a fairy story, anyway)

Understanding Arthropods

Arthropods have a hard outside, called an exoskeleton. (T)

Insects are arthropods, but spiders aren't. (F)

Arthropods all have legs with joints. (T)

Snails are arthropods. (F), not a hard body, no legs

Insects besides bees also pollinate plants. (T)

If it weren't for spiders (who eat insects), we would have WAY too many insects. (T)

Insects are very important recyclers, eating dead plants. (T)

We'd be better off without insects. (F)

Many teeny, tiny arthropods live in the soil. (T)

Bees are the only insects that pollinate. (F)

Centipedes are arthropods. (T)

Some arthropods live in the water. (T) lobsters, crabs, more

All arthropods go through metamorphosis. (F) Just some insects

Flies are important recyclers. (T)

All spiders spin beautiful webs. (F) All use silk, but not all spin webs

Very few spiders are dangerous to humans. (T). ½ of 1 percent

All scorpions have a sting deadly to humans. (F) Most do not.

Spiders have to turn their prey into liquid before they can eat (drink, actually). (T)

Cockroaches are champion forest recyclers. (T)

Butterfly larvae and moth larvae both spin "cocoon." (F) Moths spin cocoons; butterfly larvae produce a smooth coat around themselves called a chrysalis.