

# Lungs or Gills

## Children's Activity

### Overview

Children will identify animals that have lungs and live on land and animals that have gills and live underwater.

#### Themes Met:

#1 Lungs help us breathe

### Supplies

Animal cards (appendix A13-A16)

Underwater/Land Category Pictures  
(appendix A17-A18)

Bag or box

#### Extensions/ Adaptations:

This activity could be expanded to be a full science unit including more exploration of the animals. Zoos and aquariums are often willing to bring animals to visit centers at no charge. This lesson can be combined with ecology information about keeping water and air clean.

### Before You Begin

Print 1 set of animal cards (front and back) per group on heavy card stock paper. If doing as a class, 1 set is needed. If splitting class into 2 groups, 2 sets are needed. Cut each card out and place in bag. Create 2 areas of the board or table by placing the Underwater Picture on one side and the Land Picture on the other.

# Steps

**Pre-Activity Discussion:** Review why breathing is important (it brings air into our bodies to help our bodies work). Have students take a deep breath in through their nose and breathe out through their mouth. Remind children that they take a breath in and the clean air goes in their nose or mouth, down their throat, into their lungs and then they blow the used air out. Discuss with children that all living animals, including people, breathe, but some animals live underwater and breathe differently. People have lungs, but animals that live underwater have gills.

1. Put the animal cards into a bag or box. Have a child pick one card from the bag. Ask students to predict if they think the animal lives on land or in water. Read the animal information on the back of the card to the children.
2. Ask if the animal on the card lives on land and breathes air with its lungs or underwater and breathes with its gills.
3. Place the card under the category sign "Underwater" or "On Land"
4. Repeat for each card.

## Head Start Domains & Goals:

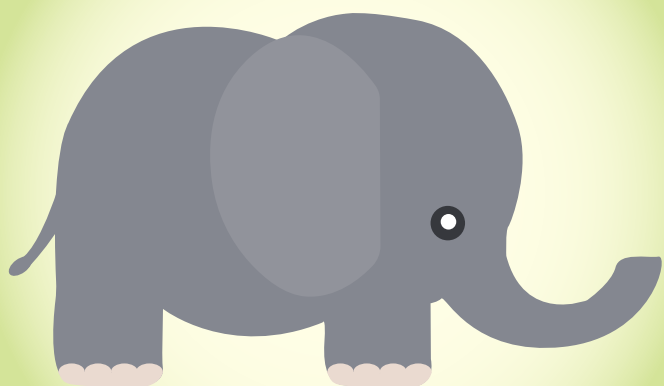
P-PMP 3  
P-SCI 2, 3, 4  
P-LC 1, 2, 4, 6, 7  
P-SE 2, 3  
P-ATL 8, 9, 11

## HighScope Curriculum Content:

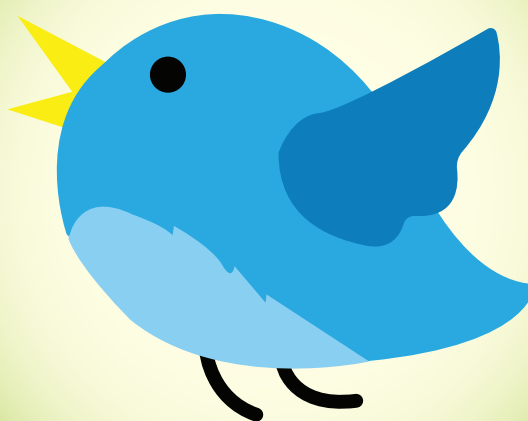
1, 3, 5, 11, 17, 21, 23, 46, 48, 50, 51, 56, 58



**Elephant**



**Bird**



**Octopus**



**Squirrel**



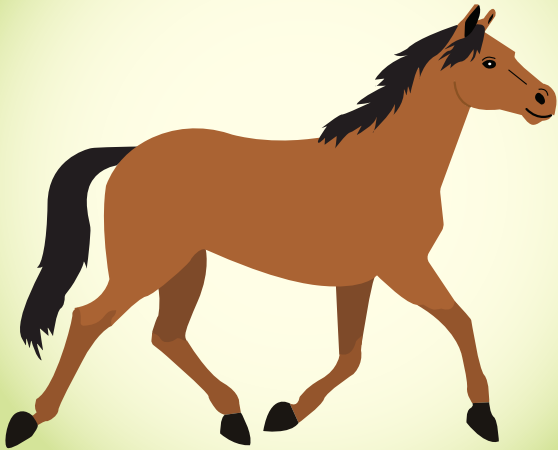
Birds live on land and use lungs to breathe in air. All birds have wings and most learn to fly when they are between 2-10 weeks old. Birds can also run, jump, swim, and dive. The largest bird is the ostrich, which is 9 feet tall. The smallest bird is the bee hummingbird and is only 2 inches long.

Elephants are the largest animal that lives on land. Elephants have very big bodies, large ears, and long trunks. They use their trunks to take 4-6 breaths of air every minute. Elephants also use their trunks to pick up objects, to greet other elephants, and as a hose to bathe or to put water into their mouths for drinking.

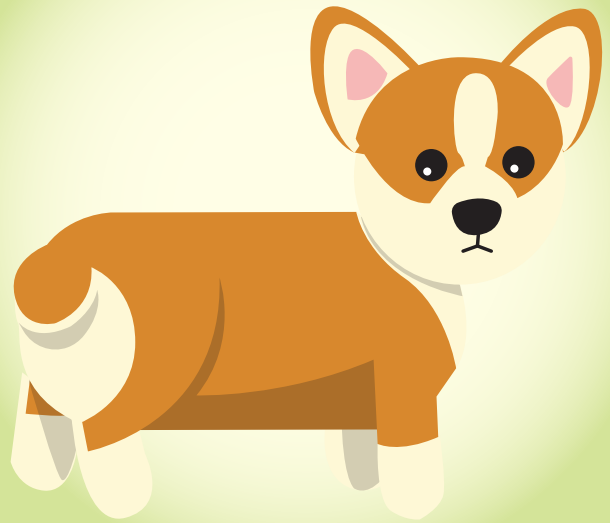
Squirrels live on land. They use their lungs to take 50-80 breaths of air every minute. There are more than 200 kinds of squirrels living around the world. Squirrels are seen from woodlands to city parks. They are great climbers, but they come to the ground to get food.

Octopuses are very smart animals that live in the ocean and use gills to breathe. They have large heads and 8 legs. Each leg is covered with suction cups that help them eat and move. Octopuses have 3 hearts and their blood is blue. Octopuses can squirt ink to hide from their enemies.

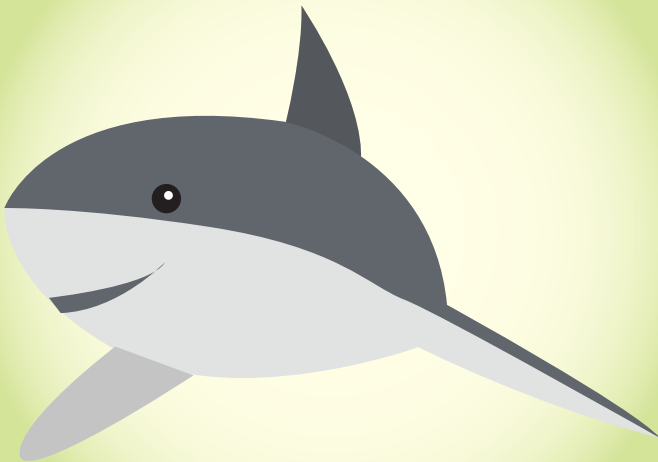
Horse



Dog



Shark



Fish

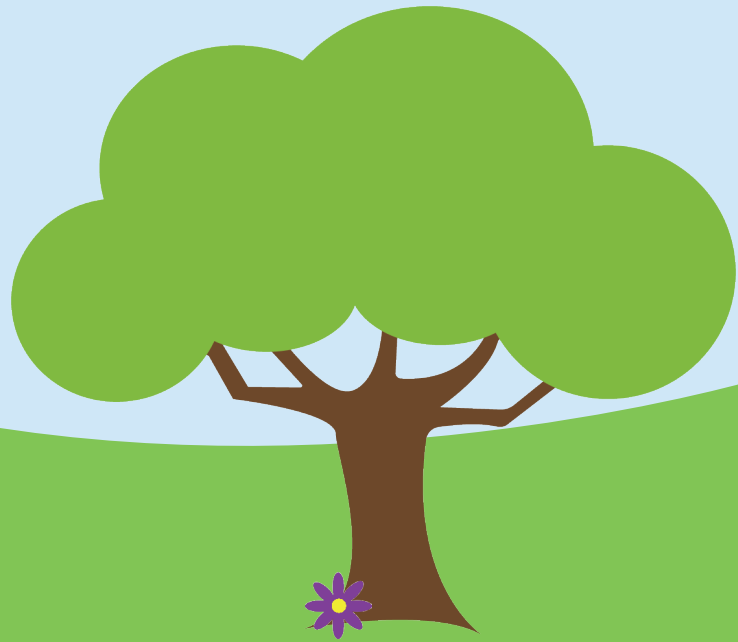
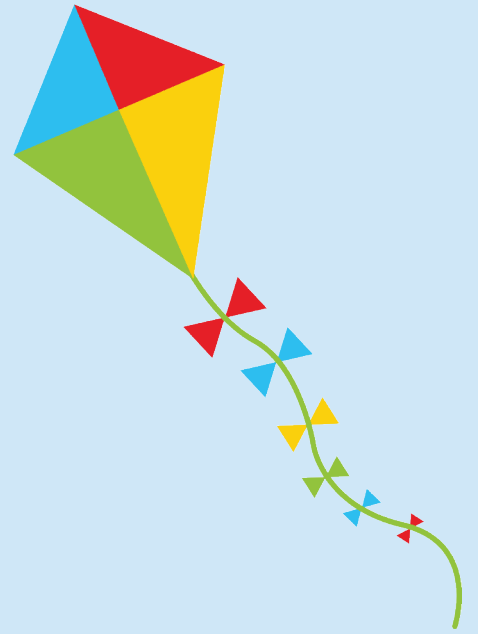


Although some dogs can swim, they live on land and use their lungs to take 10-35 breaths of air every minute. There are 340 different kinds of dogs. A baby dog is called a puppy. Some dogs are trained to help people with disabilities.

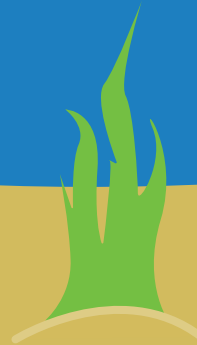
Horses live on land and use their lungs to breathe in air 8-12 times a minute. Horses use their legs to walk, trot, and gallop. Horses can be ridden for fun, as part of therapy for people with disabilities, and by police officers to help them do their jobs.

Fish are cold blooded animals that live in different kinds of water, including oceans, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Most fish use gills to help them breathe. There are 33,600 different kinds of fish. Fish come in different sizes and colors. The largest fish is 52 feet long, called the whale shark. The smallest fish is about 0.3 inches long, called the stout infantfish.

Sharks live in oceans and use gills to take 3-4 breaths every minute. There are 500 kinds of sharks. Unlike people, who only get 2 sets of teeth during their life (baby and adult teeth), sharks lose their teeth and get new ones many times during their lifetime. Sharks are also very fast swimmers.



ON LAND



# UNDERWATER