



Match Game

Introduction

The heart of *If You Were My Baby* by Fran Hodgkins, is the special relationship between parents and children, no matter what species they are! In this game, little humans and their adults match the names of animal babies and adults.

Materials Needed

- ◆ Index cards
- ◆ Pen
- ◆ Pictures of animals and their babies (optional)

Key Concepts

- ◆ Offspring resemble parents.
- ◆ Some characteristics of organisms are inherited while others result from interactions.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. First, make the match game cards. Write the names of these baby animals and their adults on separate index cards: bear/cub; deer/fawn; beaver/kit; fox/pup; bison/calf; skunk/kit; bat/pup; duck/duckling; goose/gosling; goat/kid; swan/cygnet; possum/joey.
2. Place the index cards face down in a grid that is six cards wide and four cards deep.
3. Youngest goes first. Pick up one card. Try to find the matching card. For example, if "fawn" is drawn, try to find "deer" as a match.
4. If a match is made, keep the pair and go again. If no match, put the cards back and play passes to the next player.
5. Continue until all the cards are matched. The player with the most matches is the winner!

Nature Connections

- ◆ Children can draw their own pairs of animal babies and parents. If you like, use pictures of adult and baby animals in the place of words; this will make the game accessible even to non-readers.
- ◆ Find out about other animals that teach their babies how to get along in the world. What do lions teach their young? How about whales?
- ◆ Have students look up the names of other interesting baby animals such as the alpaca, cockroach, codfish, eel, fish, hare, jellyfish, mouse, and an oyster.

Additional Resources

Some great websites to visit and learn more about wild animal babies:

National Geographic: Baby Animals

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/photos/baby-animals/>

Animal Planet: Baby Animals Guide

<http://animal.discovery.com/guides/baby-animals/baby-animals.html>

ZooBorns

<http://www.zooborns.com/>

