



## Learn about West Nile Virus

Suggested Grade Level 4

<b>Objective</b>	The students will answer “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” and “why” questions by researching how Bronx Zoo veterinarian Dr. Tracy McNamara discovered that zoo animals and wild birds were dying from the same disease that was infecting people in New York.
<b>Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVMA poster</li> <li>• Internet access</li> </ul>

<p><b>Procedure</b></p> <p><b>National Standards:</b></p> <p><b>Language Arts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing elements</li> <li>• Research</li> </ul> <p><b>Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisms and environments</li> <li>• Science and technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The teacher demonstrates with a student how to use the who, what, when, where, why, and how questioning technique to gather information on a subject of the student’s choice.</li> <li>• Next, the teacher asks students what they know about West Nile Virus.</li> <li>• Students now conduct their own research on the process that Dr. McNamara used to make the zoo animal and wild bird connection. They can research this topic on the Internet and in books, magazines, and newspapers.</li> <li>• Next, students are asked to imagine that they are reporters going to interview Dr. McNamara. Have each student create a question they would ask using each of the research questions — who, what, when, where, etc.</li> <li>• Now the students imagine they are Dr McNamara and answer each of their questions based upon the information they collected from their research. Students post their ideas on word strips and create a bulletin board with the word strips.</li> <li>• <u>Additional questions to have students research:</u> Assign one of the following questions to every 3-4 students to research and answer on a sentence strip: <i>What is being done to conduct further research for a cure for West Nile Virus today? Have the number of reported cases increased, stayed the same, or decreased over time? Why do you think that is the case? What can be done to protect animals so they don’t get West Nile Virus? What can be done to protect humans?</i></li> </ul>
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<b>Ideas to extend this lesson</b>	<u>Classroom project or independent research:</u> Have students research other breakthroughs where a veterinarian impacted animals or humans in a positive way. Organize the facts into a timeline.
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