



Animals in Space

Suggested Grade Level 4

Objective	Learn about animal experiments in space while doing research on the history of animals in space. Create a timeline of important events.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AVMA poster• 11 x17 sheet of white paper• Internet access

Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The teacher begins by explaining that animals have been an important part of our exploration of space from the very beginning. Animals were actually the first space explorers! More recently, animals have been used in experiments in space flights and on the space station.• Assign students to work in teams of two or three to research the history of animals in space by going on the Internet to Web sites such as www.answers.com/topic/animals-in-space.• Have each team choose a decade:1940s, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, or 2000s and create a timeline on an 11x17 sheet of paper of important events involving animals in space. They should NOT include everything they find, but select the most significant events. Include the reason that the animal was used (if available) or the purpose of the experiment. Encourage creativity using screen captures or drawings as well as words to describe the events. Each event should be written in enough detail that someone reading the timeline will have the important facts about the event.• Next, have the students make a list of all of the kinds of animals that were sent into space during their 10-year period. Have the team assigned to the 1940s compile all of the lists into one complete list.• Combine the finished timelines and post on a wall of the classroom.• <u>Extend the activity</u> by having each student write a paragraph about the importance of animals in our space program.• Each student can share their learning with the rest of the class and vote on which animal seems to have been the most interesting space animal.
National Standards:	
Language Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research, data collection• Writing skills
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scientific inquiry• Understanding science and technology

Ideas to extend this lesson	<p>Read about the adventures of Sam, an early space monkey, at the following Web site: www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,894356,00.html.</p> <p>Students tell Sam's flight story to their parents or another adult and bring back a signed slip saying they have completed the assignment.</p>
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