



**TODAY'S TOPIC:
UNUSUAL ANIMALS**

You are welcome to use this lesson to inspire spiritual conversation in your family or youth classroom. It is written for elementary age, but could be adjusted as needed.

THINKING JOB: Ask a “thinking job question” to get everyone thinking about something pertinent to the lesson. This could be asked moments or hours before your conversation.

What are some of my favorite animals and why?

Lesson

Materials	Things to Prepare	Today's Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google and/or print the suggested pictures of animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	Know that I am special and unique and I appreciate my differences.

ASK: What is your favorite animal? Why? Do you know something interesting or different about your animal?

ASK: Do you ever watch videos about animals? Do they do funny things? Sweet things?

SHOW: Here are a few things you may not know about these animals.

- ✓ The heart of a shrimp is located in its head.
- ✓ A snail can sleep for three years.
- ✓ The fingerprints of a koala are so indistinguishable from humans that they have sometimes been confused as human at a crime scene.
- ✓ Slugs have four noses.
- ✓ Elephants are the only animal that can't jump.
- ✓ A rhinoceros' horn is made of hair.
- ✓ It is possible to hypnotize a frog by placing it on its back and gently stroking its stomach.
- ✓ It takes a sloth two weeks to digest its food.

- ✓ A cow gives nearly 200,000 glasses of milk in a lifetime.
- ✓ Bats always turn left when leaving a cave.
- ✓ Giraffes have no vocal cords.
- ✓ An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- ✓ Around 50% of orangutans have fractured bones due to falling out of trees on a regular basis.

QUESTIONS:

- The shrimp's heart is in its head. Where is your heart? A heart pumps blood around your body, but what else does it do (love, feelings)? Who lives in your heart (you, God)?
- The fingerprints of the koala can be confused for human. What other ways are humans and koalas the same? Did God make both people and koalas?
- You can relax a frog by gently stroking it's stomach. What do you do to relax?
- Bats always turn left leaving a cave. What do you always do that you can't control? Breathing, heartbeat, blinking. Does God take care of things for you and bats so you don't have to think about it?
- Giraffes have no vocal chords and don't make sounds. How do you communicate when you can't use your voice? Eyes, how you move your hands and your body, hugs.

SAY: Some animals have strange, different, or unusual things about them. Some people seem to have strange, different, or unusual things about them. You have things about you that may seem strange, different or unusual. BUT – we have more that is the same than different, and we like that we have differences, and we respect and honor our differences. God made you, and everyone, exactly right.

AFFIRMATION – Life is fun. repeat 4X

Note: Printable affirmations and coloring sheets for this lesson are available at <https://www.milehichurch.org/youth-family/>.