

Unit/Course	Animal Handling Session with River's Rodents and Reptiles		Topic	Meeting and learning about 5 different animals.
Length of Session	Either 45 minutes to 1 Hour	Venue	Classroom, Hall or outside under Gazebo	Host River Lismer

Learning Outcomes (see examples on page below)

- Meeting live animals and how to touch them.
- Learning about the animal's diet, habitat, anatomy, physiology and texture.
- Skills in sitting in a group.
- Learning patience and turn taking.
- Confidence in answering questions in front of the group.
- Confidence in asking questions.

Transferable skills developed (see examples on page below)

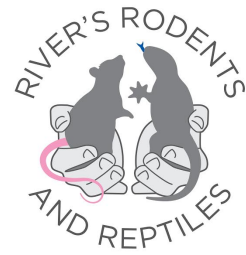
- Respect towards animals, wild and pet animals.
- Understanding of animals needs as a pet and in the wild
- How each animal can live in different habitats.
- The different diets of animals.
- How human anatomy and physiology compare to animals and vice versa.
- Oral Skills.
- Group activity skills.

Plan of activities

Time (in minutes)	Activity	Teacher Support	Hand-outs and resources
5 mins Welcome to the Animal Handling Session and Rules	<p>Introduction to the Animal Handling Session.</p> <p>Going to meet 5 different animals</p> <p>Rules –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stay sitting, River will come to you with each animal, if you want to touch the animals wiggle your finger at River. If you just want to look, place hands on your knees. 2. Stay as quiet as possible, no screaming or shouting as can scare the animals 3. Washing hands at the end. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teachers can use the Animal Handling Session to introduce the topic of animals. 2. Teachers can use the Animal Handling Session during the term to bring the topic alive with focus on a particular area of learning; for example diet, habitat, anatomy, physiology and texture. 3. Teachers can use the Animal Handling Session as a reward at the end of the term to reinforce the learning topic of animals. 	<p>River has colouring sheet of each animal.</p> <p>River also has worksheets of each animal.</p> <p>Available to download from the website. www.riversrodentsandreptiles.co.uk</p>



<p>7 - 10 mins Blue Tongue Skink</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Dude the Blue Tongue Skink. 2. Country of origin - Australia 3. Habitat – Hot, dry and under bushes. 4. Coldblooded 5. Camouflage 6. Tongue – use to pretend that he is venomous or poisonous. 7. Ears – How they hear with their stomach 8. Tail – Survival technique by dropping tail. 9. Diet – Omnivore 10. Movement on the floor 11. Texture – Scales and claws <p>The Blue Tongue Skink is held by River due the sharp claws. The audience is encouraged to stroke the lizard from head to tail.</p>
<p>7 - 10 mins Corn Snake</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to either Mia or Zeberdee the Corn Snakes. 2. Country of origin – North America 3. Habitat – Hot and dry Corn Fields in holes 4. Coldblooded 5. Tongue – Forked and used for smelling 6. Bones – Compare humans to Snake. Spine, Ribs, Skull and Jaw 7. Not venomous but can bite. 8. Diet – Carnivore 9. Physiology – Head, Stomach and Tail. 10. Movement on the floor 11. Texture - Scales <p>Corn Snake is held by River, only if the individual is confident will they are allowed to hold the Corn Snake on their own. Otherwise finger stroking is allowed.</p>
<p>7 - 10 mins Tortoise</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to either Coco or Chanel the Tortoises. 2. Country of origin - Mediterranean 3. Habitat – Hot, dry and rocky. 4. Coldblooded 5. Shell – protection, camouflage, internal organs. 6. Beak – Eating and biting. 7. Diet – Herbivore 8. Hibernation 9. Physiology – legs, face and tail. 10. Movement on the floor. 11. Texture – Shell, scales and claws. <p>The Tortoise is held by River, just in case the Tortoise toilets. The audience is encouraged to touch the shell, legs and claws.</p>



<p>7 - 10 mins Rats</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Pinky and Brain the Rats. 2. Country of origin – All over the world, except for the Arctic and Antarctic 3. Habitat – anywhere dark with food supply, warmth and near humans. 4. Warm blooded 5. Tail – Balance and heat loss 6. Eyes, Whiskers and Ears 7. Teeth – Continuously grow so have to gnaw 8. Diet – Omnivore 9. Agility – Climbing, running and jumping 10. Texture – Fur, Tail and claws. <p>Rat is held in River's hand, as the claws can scratch skin. The audience is encouraged to stroke, tickle and touch the tail.</p>
<p>7 - 10 mins Guinea Pig</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Potter, Lily or Myrtle the Guinea Pigs 2. Country of origin – South America, Andes Mountains 3. Habitat – Dig tunnels and social living. 4. Warm blooded 5. Ears – Heat loss 6. Eyes – On the side to watch for predators 7. Claws – 14 toes and claws 8. Diet – Herbivore 9. Communication – different noises and what they mean. 10. Texture – Fur and claws. <p>The Guinea Pig is placed on a blanket and then placed on each individual lap to allow the individual to stroke gently from head along the back.</p>
<p>5 mins Question Board</p>	<p>At the end of the Animal Handling Session the use of the Question Board reinforces the learning element. The use of target questioning can be used or answered as a group.</p>
<p>Total time = 45 - 60 mins</p>	<p>Audience encouraged to say thank you and then directed to wash their hands.</p> <p>Stickers given to each audience member and a Bravery Certificate for the group.</p>