

Look Alikes?: Prepare to Read and Science

Activate Prior Knowledge

Similarities and Differences

1. Give each student two different colors of modeling clay. Instruct them to roll out a large ball and a small ball with each color, so they have four balls. Then tell the class to imagine that these balls are baby animals and their mothers. Ask students to set each baby next to its mother.
2. Analyze the results. All students should have created a set with one large ball and one small ball. Why? (The parent is always larger than the baby.) Analyze the shape. All are round.
3. Then examine the colors. How many students matched the colors in each set? How many didn't? Explain to the class that either combination makes sense. Say: *Babies look like their parents, but they're not always exactly the same. Sometimes, they're very different.* Brainstorm ways baby animals and their parents are alike and how they can be different.

Explore Science

Animal Babies and Their Parents

1. Prior to conducting this activity, download the National Geographic photo gallery "Animal Mothers and Baby Photos" at: http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/photos/animal-mothers-babies/#/zambezi-elephants_13415_600x450.jpg.
2. Display the images in the photo gallery one at a time. After each, invite students to share their observations. Challenge them to explain how each baby looks the same as and different from its mother.
3. Invite students to identify and describe other animal babies they have seen. Did they look like their parents or not? Guide students to recognize that young animals are very much, but not exactly, like their parents and other adults in their species.
4. Display the photo gallery one more time. Challenge students to identify one way all babies are different from their parents. (They're smaller.)

Developing Adult Colors

1. Prior to conducting this activity, download the slide show of the silver leaf monkey at: <http://www.arkive.org/silvered-leaf-monkey/trachypithecus-cristatus/image-G40072.html>.
2. In the projectable edition, go to Options and click Single page mode. Display page 6 of the projectable edition. Cover the infant in the image so only the adult monkey is visible. Invite students to describe the adult. Then encourage them to predict what this monkey's baby will look like.
3. Remove the cover to display the full image. Compare the infant's appearance with students' predictions. Then display page 7. Ask students how they think this baby changed from bright orange to gray. Encourage them to share their thoughts.
4. Display the slide show. As you move from one screen to the next, challenge students to spot changes in the infant's color. Ask: *How do you know the baby monkey in the last photo is older than the baby monkey in the first photo?* (It's the same color as the adults.)

Extend Science

Can You Make A Match?

1. Prior to conducting this activity, print photos of several different mammals. Get separate images of an adult and an infant for each. Be sure to include examples where infants look the same as and different from the adults. You can find examples in National Geographic's "Baby Animals" photo gallery at: <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/photos/baby-animals/>. For more examples, go to the Zooborns site at: <http://www.zooborns.com/zooborns/>.
2. Post the photos on the board. As a class, match the correct infant and adult. Challenge students to find and describe similarities and differences in each pair.