**Who Knows Utah Animals?**

**Fourth Grade Core: Standard 5 Objective 2**

Identify common plants and animals that inhabit Utah forests, wetlands, and deserts; cite examples of physical features that allow particular plants and animals to live in specific environments (e.g. duck has webbed feet, cactus has waxy coating).

1. Print out the pictures of different Utah animals so each student gets their own picture.
2. Don’t let the students see what their picture is. Tape the picture to their back.
3. Then students can ask each other questions about their animal to figure out what animal it is, or at least get close to figuring out.
4. After the activity, discuss where the animals live and what physical features they have that allow them to survive in their specific environment.

*Variation:* Use the pictures below to play charades with Utah animals.

**Animal Information:**

1. **Striped Skunk**—feeds on mice, eggs, carrion, insects, grubs, and berries. Skunks live in dens, which may be in ground burrows, or beneath buildings, boulders, or rock piles.
2. **American Bullfrog**—will eat insects, fish, snakes, birds and sometimes other frogs. Their hunting style is to “sit and wait.” Bullfrogs live in aquatic habitats.
3. **Kangaroo Rat**—has highly developed hind legs, live in deep burrows that shelter them from the worst of the desert heat, and rarely drink water. Their diet includes seeds, leaves, stems, buds, some fruit, and insects.
4. **Red Fox**—is found in prairies and scrubland and forest settings. The Red Fox has also become a familiar sight in suburban and even urban environments. The majority of their diet consists of invertebrates (insects, mollusks, earthworms and crayfish). They also eat plant material, especially blackberries, apples, and plums, and they eat rodents, birds, and amphibians.
5. **Bighorn Sheep**—graze on grasses and browse shrubs. Bighorns are well adapted to climbing steep terrain where they seek cover from predators such as coyotes and cougars.
6. **Cougar**—feeds on deer and bighorn sheep, but it also hunts species as small as insects and rodents. It prefers habitats with dense underbrush and rocky areas for stalking. Cougars are also called Mountain Lions, Pumas, or Panthers.
7. **American Bison**—Bison are herbivores, grazing on grasses of the North American prairies.
8. **Black-Footed Ferret**—is a nocturnal hunter that requires a plentiful supply of prairie dogs for prey. A single family of four Black-footed Ferrets eats about 250 prairie dogs each year and cannot survive without access to large colonies of them.
9. **Barn Owl**—is a bird of open country, such as farmland, and prefers to hunt along the edges of woods. It feeds primarily on small vertebrates, particularly rodents, but also small bats, birds and reptiles. It also sometimes eats insects.

10. **Black Bear**—prefer to live in forested and shrubby areas. They are omnivores whose diet includes plants, meat, and insects.

11. **Magpie**—eats mostly worms, slugs and small insects.

12. **Black-chinned Hummingbird**—lives in semi-arid areas and feeds on nectar from flowers using a long extendable tongue or catches insects on the wing.

13. **Bald Eagle**—is found near large bodies of open water with an abundant food supply and old-growth trees for nesting (very few are found in Utah). Its diet consists mainly of fish.

14. **American Robin**—habitat is woodland and more open farmland and urban areas. The American Robin's diet is of invertebrates, such as beetle grubs, caterpillars and grasshoppers, and wild and cultivated fruits and berries.

15. **American Beaver**—construct their homes, or "lodges," out of sticks, twigs, and mud in lakes or streams. The inner bark, twigs, shoots and leaves of trees are an important part of the beaver's diet.

16. **Badger**—shelter underground, living in burrows. prey on gophers, ground squirrels, prairie dogs, mice and voles. They also eat some plants such as corn and peas.

17. **Tiger Salamander**—feeds on small insects and worms. Adults are rarely seen in the open and often live in burrows. Tiger salamanders are almost entirely terrestrial as adults, and usually only return to the water to breed.

18. **Three-toed Woodpecker**—lives in coniferous forests. These woodpeckers forage on conifers in search of wood-boring beetle larvae or other insects. They may also eat fruit and tree sap.

19. **King snake**—lives in Utah deserts where they will eat other snakes, lizards, rodents, birds, and eggs. They are highly resistant to the venom of other snakes and are known to eat rattlesnakes.

20. **Horned Lizard**—lives in Utah deserts where their diet is mostly of harvester ants. They also eat termites, beetles, grasshoppers and other small insects.

21. **Big Brown Bat**—roosts during the day in hollow trees, beneath loose tree bark, in the crevices of rocks or in man-made structures such as attics. Big Brown Bats are insectivorous, eating mosquitoes, moths, beetles, and wasps which they capture in flight.

22. **Gila monster**—feeds mostly on eggs and small mammals and birds. Gila monsters tend to live in scrubland, desert, and oak woodland, seeking shelter in burrows, thickets, and under rocks in locations with ready access to moisture.

23. **Mallard**—inhabits most wetlands, including parks, small ponds and rivers, and usually feeds by dabbling for plant food or grazing; there are reports of it eating frogs.

24. **Prairie Dog**—is a small, burrowing rodent native to the grasslands of North America (a type of squirrel). Feeds mostly on grasses, and a little on insects.
Striped Skunk

American Bullfrog
Kangaroo Rat

Red Fox
Bighorn Sheep

Mountain Lion (cougar)
American Bison

Black-Footed Ferret
Bald Eagle

American Robin
American Beaver

Badger
Tiger Salamander

Three-toed Woodpecker
King snake

Horned Lizard
Mallard Duck

Prairie Dog