



Lay It On The Line

LESSON PLAN

What Can Be Learned?

As citizens we are faced with differing opinions about many issues on a daily basis. During this unit (in particular the Neighbourhood Survey) the students may find that people have many different opinions on the subject of urban wildlife.

In doing this activity, students will use the knowledge they have gained throughout the unit to help formulate and inform personal opinions. The activities provide the opportunity to justify and clearly express reasons for their personal opinions.

Materials Required

Opinion activity sheet (included)
4 lengths of rope



The Activity

The activity involves compiling a series of statements and getting the children to mark on a scale where their opinion lies (strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree).

Some things that might be worth exploring prior to this activity:

Topics that have been in the news where people have different opinions.

The importance of reaching your own opinions and being able to give reasons for them.

That it's ok not to have the same opinion as someone else.

That people can change their opinion.

Start with the whole class together. Practise the opinion-forming process by reading out a statement, eg: "We should all wear school uniforms". Ask the

students to close their eyes and think quietly about whether they strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree (teachers may wish to modify the statements to agree and disagree if required).

Lay the 4 rope lengths on the ground in the classroom. Each rope is a "line" and each represents one of the opinions.

After some thinking time, have the students move to the rope length (or line) that represents their opinion. (Teachers may wish students to complete this exercise as individuals - the opinion sheet is included to use as a handout for this purpose.)

Ask some of the students to share the reason they chose their position.

Explain that the next few questions will be about urban wildlife. Remind students of the opinion that each rope length represents.

Go through the above process for the 'opinion statements' that you feel are most relevant to your class.

Ask students to later write why they felt strongly about one or two of the statements.



Urban Wildlife E-Set suited to lower primary students.

Urban Wildlife E-Set - Lesson Plan

E-Sets are an Electronic Environmental and Educational set of notes for teachers

FURTHER INFORMATION

Head Office; 134 Macquarie Street Hobart Tasmania 7000

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Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment



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OPINION ACTIVITY SHEET

Read the opinion statements and tick the boxes that you agree with most.



'We should not feed native animals our food scraps'

————— ————— —————

Strongly disagree Disagree Agree Strongly agree

'Our school grounds provide good habitats for our native animals'

————— ————— —————

Strongly disagree Disagree Agree Strongly agree

'It is important to keep large areas of natural habitat for native animals'

————— ————— —————

Strongly disagree Disagree Agree Strongly agree

'We should not keep pet cats inside at night'

————— ————— —————

Strongly disagree Disagree Agree Strongly agree

Did you strongly agree with any of the statements above? Why?

Pick one of the statements and explain why you disagreed with it.
