

## Unit Guide

### Learning and Writing About Animals in Kindergarten

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In this science unit on animals, children use exciting science content to improve listening, speaking, and writing skills. Unit 2 of the Next Generation Science is titled Animals, Plants, and Their Environment. The content of this unit addresses the Next Generation Science Standards, while at the same time working on Common Core Listening, Speaking, and Writing Standards. This unit is adaptable to any time of the school year. However, it does have the potential to be a year-long unit, with the first lessons focusing on speaking and listening standards. Children need to be able to communicate ideas verbally before they will be able to write coherently, which is why I started with squirrels in the fall and listening/speaking standards. Late winter has the children learning about reptiles and beginning to do more writing and describing. I used our district mandated writing curriculum for lesson ideas, but the writing lessons are easily adapted to any writing program that focuses on nonfiction writing, which the common core requires. In the spring, the students are building on their writing experiences by completing observation logs and writing a report on toads.