

Facts About Felines

OBJECTIVE:

To learn the difference between the myths and the facts about cats, which will help the students to be more compassionate toward them.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:

Read the book, *The True-or-False Book of Cats* and test the students' knowledge with the "Cat Quiz."

MATERIALS:

- 🐾 Book: *The True-or-False Book of Cats*, by Patricia Lauber
- 🐾 Worksheet: "Cat Quiz"

ACTIVITY:

Preliminary Discussion

- 🐾 What's a myth? Ask for some examples. How do myths get started?
- 🐾 What are some other words for "myth" (i.e., fable, legend, falsehood, tall tale)?
- 🐾 What's a fact? Ask for some examples.
- 🐾 What's the difference between a myth and a fact?
- 🐾 What are some myths about cats that you know?
- 🐾 What are some facts about cats that you know?
- 🐾 What happens when people believe myths? How does this affect the choices and decisions that people make? How can we make better, more respectful choices and decisions when we know the truth?

Procedure

Read the book, *The True-or-False Book of Cats*. Read each question in the book and ask the class if they think it's a myth or a fact, then read the answers. On the chalkboard, list the myths and the facts. Discuss which myths are the most common and how they came to be. Next, give the students the "Cat Quiz" to test their knowledge of feline myths and facts.

Post-Discussion

- 🐾 What did you learn about cats?
- 🐾 Why do you think there are so many myths about cats?
- 🐾 Why do some people think black cats are bad luck? Explain that black cats are the same as all cats, no matter what color they are.
- 🐾 By understanding the facts about cats, can you be more respectful of them?
- 🐾 What are some myths about other animals? How have these myths created negative stereotypes for these animals (i.e. sharks and wolves)?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

Have each student choose an animal and write a report about the myths and facts about that animal.

Cat Quiz

How much do you know about these furry felines? Take this quiz to find out!

Decide if each statement is a myth or a fact. Write "myth" or "fact" on each line.

1. Cats have nine lives. _____

2. Cats can't see color. _____

3. Cats need to sharpen their claws. _____

4. Cats need to spend some of their time outdoors to be happy. _____

5. When a cat rubs against you it is marking you. _____

6. A female cat should have at least one litter of kittens, because it's good for her health. _____

7. Cats don't need much light to see. _____

8. A cat's whiskers are feelers. _____

9. A black cat is bad luck. _____

10. Cats don't like to spend time with people. _____