

TEKS-Based Activity Starter for Grade 3

But I Need This

Description:

In this activity, students identify basic survival needs common to living organisms.

Time Frame:

1 lesson (45 minutes)

Correlation to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills:

During this activity, students will be exposed to the following Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills:

Note: Some TEKS statements below end with a ; or *and* and nothing thereafter—this indicates that further TEKS statements follow but are not included here.

(3.8) Science concepts. The student knows that living organisms need food, water, light, air, a way to dispose of waste, and an environment in which to live. The student is expected to:

- (B) observe and identify organisms with similar needs that compete with one another for resources such as oxygen, water, food, or space;

Note: The TEKS listed here are the main content TEKS for this activity; however, this activity may also cover additional content and process skills included in other TEKS.

Materials:

Pictures of people (3–5 pictures per student group)

Pictures of pets (3–5 pictures per student group)

Pictures of wildlife, including plants and animals (3–5 pictures per student group)

Advance Preparation:

Prepare a set of pictures that includes 3–5 each of people, pets, and wildlife (including plants and animals) for each student group.

Procedures:

1. Have students place all of the items from their desks or backpacks on top of their desks. Ask them to explain why each of the items is necessary and then put these items away.
2. Give each student group a set of people, pets, and wildlife pictures. Ask students to use the pictures as a reference and to rely on their own experience to write one list of the things that a person needs to survive; a second list of

the things that pets need to survive; and a third list of the things that wildlife need to survive.

3. Ask students to compare their lists. What is similar? Different? What conclusions can be made about what all of the groups need to survive? Students should respond that organisms need things such as air, food, water, and shelter.