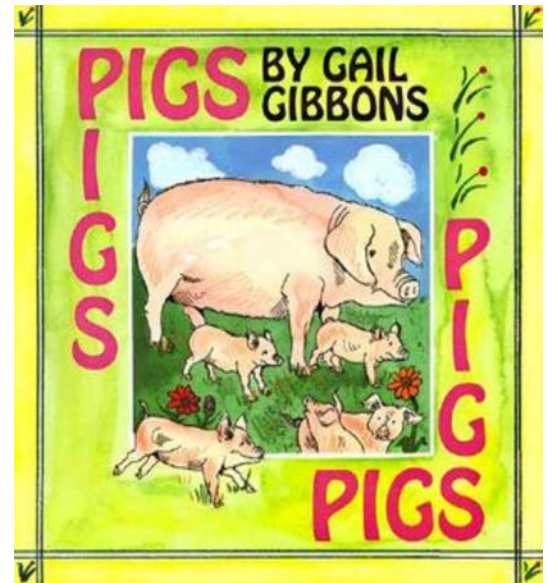


March 2016 Book of the Month

Pigs

By: Gail Gibbons

This picture book explains the basic characteristics, common breeds, intelligence, behavior, life cycle, and uses of pigs in a colorful and readable format. Topics include the history for the domestication of the pig, their ability to locate truffles, the birth and growth of pigs, and the uses of pigs for food and leather. Gibbons also debunks common myths about pigs: "Many people think pigs are smelly and dirty. They think pigs 'eat like pigs' and aren't very smart. That's because they don't know pigs!" We learn that there are about 300 breeds of pigs, that pigs are very smart, have good hearing, poor eyesight, beautiful, long eyelashes, and can run as fast as 30 miles per hour. We're also told that "there is a children's story called 'The Three Little Pigs.'" Between its colorful covers, this book holds a wealth of information about pigs.



Fun Facts:

- Pigs are intelligent animals.
- Like humans, pigs are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and other animals.
- A pig's snout is an important tool for finding food in the ground and sensing the world around them.
- Pigs have an excellent sense of smell.
- There are around 2 billion pigs in the world.
- Humans raise pigs for meat such as sausage, bacon, and ham.
- Some people like to keep pigs as pets.
- Wild pigs (boars) are often hunted in the wild.
- In some areas of the world, wild boars are the main source of food for tigers.
- Feral pigs that have been introduced into new areas can be a threat to the local ecosystem.
- Relative to their body size, pigs have small lungs.

Activities

Pigs, True or False:

Prepare a chart with the title “Pigs.” Under the title write “true” on one side and “false” on the other side. Brainstorm with students what they know about pigs. Prepare statements ahead of time that are true and false. Read the statements (or let the students pick a card and read aloud) and allow the students to decide if they are true or false. Place the statement cards under the correct heading. Read the book *Pigs*. At the end of each page, decide if the statement that matches the page read is true or false. Move it to the correct category. When the activity is over, have students select a partner and share why the “false” statements were “false.” You can also have students rewrite the false statements so they will read to be true.

(See links for full activities/instructions)

To Be a Pig Farmer:

Scavenger Hunt: Ag in the Classroom (Complete instructions and pork product food cards can be found

here:<http://www.agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix/lessonplan.cfm?lpid=272>

Hide all the cards before starting this activity.

1. Ask students to name some of the jobs that farmers do each day. Help them recognize that farmers grow plants and raise animals each day that we eat, and also provide the fiber for our clothes. There are many kinds of farmers. Ask: *What would it be like to be a pig farmer? What would the farmer be responsible for?*
2. Ask students what they need for their bodies to be healthy and well cared for. *Who takes care of those needs? (Parents) Who takes care of the animals? (Farmers are the primary caregivers of his/her animals).*
3. Show the video clip, The Amazing Pig. <https://youtu.be/KO9853g6mag>
They will see a large pig farm with many farmers working. Stop at various places throughout the video and discuss what farmers are doing and how they are taking care of the animals. Examples include, keeping them cool when it’s hot, warm when it’s cold, helping with new baby pigs and moving them to different locations as they grow. Then ask, *What do pigs do/provide for us?* Explain the many things that they provide for us. List the different foods.
4. Go on a scavenger hunt around the classroom or school to find the various pictures of pork products that you have hidden. When they have all been found, discuss

each one. Students can also draw a picture of a pig, write about their pork product, and label the parts of a pig.

The Amazing Pig:

<https://youtu.be/KO9853g6mag>

Links:

<http://www.agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix/lessonplan.cfm?lpid=272>

<http://www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/AgMags/Pork%20Ag%20Mag%20for%20SmartBoard.pdf>

Sources:

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals/pig.html>

<http://www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/AgMags/Pork%20Ag%20Mag%20for%20SmartBoard.pdf>