

## Alaskan Beanie Classification

**Developed by:** Kim Slade 2007 WFTOTT

**Discipline / Subject:** Science

**Topic:** Animal Classification

**Grade Level:** 1-7

**Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:**

- Beanie babies (or other stuffed animals) – animals found in student’s area and animals found in Alaska – students and/or teacher can bring in animals
- 2 Large Venn Diagram for floor or table top (small hula hoops work well or manufactured Venn hoops)
- Copies of Venn Diagram (per student)
- Two copies of “Animal Information Sheet” (per student)

**Lesson Summary:** Students classify animals that live in their area and in Alaska using a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast characteristics.

**Standard’s Addressed: (Alaska)**

1. Science – C: A student should understand and be able to apply the concepts, models, theories, facts, evidence, systems, and processes of life science.

**Learning objectives:**

Students will:

- Classify animals according to their natural characteristics
- Compare and contrast animals according to various characteristics

**Assessment:**

Accuracy and completion of “Animal Information Sheet”

**Procedural Activities**

1. Teacher collects all animals then passes them out to groups at random
2. Ask “*What can you tell me about these animals?*”
3. Allow students to discuss and respond
4. If students do not discuss putting animals into categories, then ask students to classify, or group, animals with similar characteristics
5. Use the Venn Diagram to organize classifications
6. Discuss the student’s reasoning behind the classifications
7. Ask “*If there are other ways to classify students’ animals?*”
8. Share classifications
9. Compare and contrast animals from students’ area and Alaskan animals
10. Students select an animal from their area and one from Alaska, then complete “Animal Information Sheet” for each animal chosen

**Materials Students Need:**

- Copy of Venn Diagram
- 2 Copies of “Animal Information Sheet”

**Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:**

- [www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com)
- <http://www.enature.com/home/>
- <http://www.alaskasbest.com/wildlife.htm>

**Other Information:** Classify, compare and contrast sled dogs with other breeds of dogs using beanie babies

**Other Learning Opportunities:**

Have students research an animal in great detail, then present their chosen animal to the class