Classifying Animals
動物分類趣

How are animals classified?

Animal classification is the process of categorizing and organizing animals into different groups based on their shared characteristics. It helps scientists and researchers understand the diversity of animal species and their evolutionary relationships. Animals that have a backbone are called vertebrates. Animals that don't have a backbone are called invertebrates. Vertebrates and invertebrates are divided into smaller groups. Vertebrates, for example, are divided into fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. And these are the groups that the students studied in this project.

Making the connection

This project explored the classification system used to identify animals. The students observed different animals and identified the main characteristics required to separate them and classify them accordingly. They ended up understanding the connection with what makes animals different for example mammals and reptiles, and also what makes them the same.

Creating an animal hybrid

As part of the activity, the students were given the task of planning and developing a hybrid animal. They utilized the knowledge they had acquired during earlier stages of the project to create a unique creature that combined traits from three different animals. This exercise encouraged the students to think creatively and allowed them to explore their imagination. They particularly enjoyed the process of digitally designing and refining their animals before bringing them to life in a paper version. The main objective of this activity was to not only create a new species but also to classify it according to the principles of animal classification. By engaging in this exercise, the students gained a deeper understanding of the classification system and how different traits contribute to the overall characteristics of an animal

如何分類動物?

動物分類是將動物依照牠們共同的特徵分組，讓科學家和研究人員了解動物多樣性和動物間的親緣關係。有脊梁的動物被稱為脊椎動物，沒有脊梁的動物被稱為無脊椎動物，脊椎動物和無脊椎動物又被分成更小的類別。舉例來說，脊椎動物分成魚類、兩棲類、爬蟲類、鳥類及哺乳類。這些是學生在這個專題中學習的動物類別。

動物間的關聯

此專題透過分類系統讓學生探究動物。學生觀察不同動物，並將動物依其主要特徵分類，最後理解動物之間的差異，例如哺乳類和爬蟲類的差異及相似處。

創造混種動物

此活動也讓學生計畫和創造一隻混種動物，他們以先前學到的知識，結合三種不同動物的特徵，創造出新的混種動物。這個練習可以讓學生發揮創意和想像力，他們特別喜歡畫在紙上之前先用平板創造和改進的過程。這個活動的主要目標不只是創造新動物，也需要根據動物分類原則將其歸類。藉此，學生能更深入了解分類系統和動物特徵。

1 ASK + IMAGINE 提問 + 創思　2

Sorting animals was tricky, especially reptiles and amphibians.
分類動物不簡單，特別是爬蟲類及兩棲類。

3 PLAN 計畫

We shared ideas and worked together to create interesting hybrid animals.
我們分享彼此意見，並共同創造有趣的混種動物。

4 CREATE 創造

We used our creativity to create our hybrid animals.
我們用創造力去創造混種動物。

5 IMPROVE 改進

The best part was using technology to show and make improvements to our designs.
用電腦展現並改進我們的混種動物最有趣了。