

POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

Lesson Plan

Hamster Help

Lesson Plan for *Hamsters*

Grade 1

Objective

To help students practice using context clues and glossaries to determine and clarify the meaning of words in a text.

Things Needed

- *Hamsters* book
- Whiteboard

Before the Activity

Write the following words on the whiteboard: *nocturnal*, *hoard*, *territorial*, *species*, *gently*, *companions*.

Activity

Read *Hamsters* out loud to students. On each page with a green glossary word, use the following prompts to help students use context clues to identify the word's meaning. Students can use the glossary on page 23 to check their answers.

- page 4, *nocturnal*: The book says, "Hamsters are nocturnal. They sleep during the day, and they are awake all night." Based on these sentences, what do you think the word *nocturnal* means?
- page 6, *hoard*, *territorial*: The book says, "Hamsters hoard food. They fill their cheeks with food." Based on these sentences, what do you think the word *hoard* means? The book also says, "Hamsters are territorial. They should be kept alone. They will fight other hamsters." Based on these sentences, what do you think the word *territorial* means?
- page 10, *species*: The book says, "There are more than 20 species of hamsters. Each species looks and acts different." Based on these sentences, what do you think the word *species* means?



- page 21, gently, companions: The book says, “Owners should hold their hamsters gently.” Looking at the image on page 20, what do you think the word *gently* means? The book also says, “Hamsters that are treated gently are often friendlier. Hamsters can be good companions.” Based on these sentences, what do you think the word *companions* means?

Evaluation

Could students use context clues and/or the glossary to describe what each word meant?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the National Science Education Standards’ Content Standard C, grades K–4, and the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.4, 1.5).

