



Are Bigger Brains Better? (🧠 A Brain Facts Story)
(1st – 6-7 yrs.)
Video: Human and Animal Brains



STORY CONNECTION-SLIDE 3 (Approx Time: 15-20 mins)

All animals have brains (or a nervous system) – even bugs like this bumblebee and worms!!! “Brains” in different animals look different...hmmmm...why do brains in different animals look different?

Materials needed:

- Chart paper or white board
- Markers
- Animal pictures (included below)
- Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCXSZQSWwdM> (1:34)
- Equipment to show online video

Preparation needed:

- Preview the video before the activity.
- Know the correct order of animal brain size.
- Determine how animal pictures will be displayed.

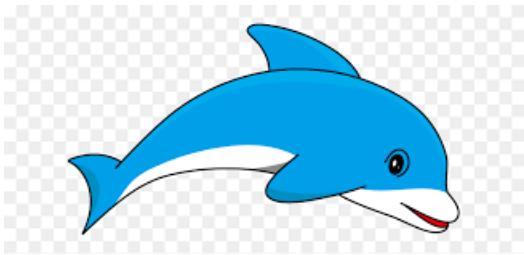
Instructions:

1. After discussing slide 3, the student(s) know that all animals have brains. In this activity, the student(s) will first make predictions about brain size.
2. Have animal pictures available for student(s) to see.
NOTE: Use the ones provided or use others as long as they are the same animals. The animals are human, java man (no image), dolphin, chimp, gorilla, lion, elephant, rabbit, cat, and dog.
3. Ask student(s) to think about the brain sizes of the animals in the picture.
4. Ask student(s) to put the pictures in order from largest to smallest according to brain size.
5. Record the order on the chart paper or white board.
6. Once an order is established by the group, ask for volunteers to tell why they think this is the correct order.
7. Also ask if there is anyone who disagrees with the order and ask why they think this. Note any disagreements.
8. Tell student(s) they are going to watch a short video with the correct order.
Note: There is a bit of information at the end of the video that might be too complex for 1st grade student(s); however, it is interesting to know for the leader who can put it into simpler terms for the student(s) as needed.
9. Watch the video once the entire way through without stopping.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCXSZQSWwdM>

10. Watch the video again and this time stop after each brain is shown to check the order the student(s) created and adjust as necessary.
11. Watch the video one more time to check the final order or correctness.
12. Discuss the final order by asking questions such as:
 - a. What did we get correct?
 - b. Where did we make mistakes?
 - c. What do you notice about the order?
 - d. What can we say about animals and brain size?



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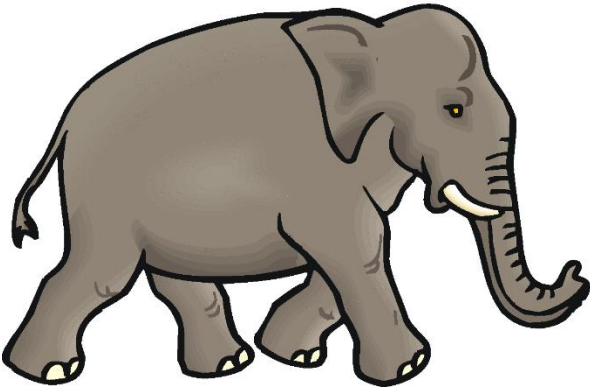
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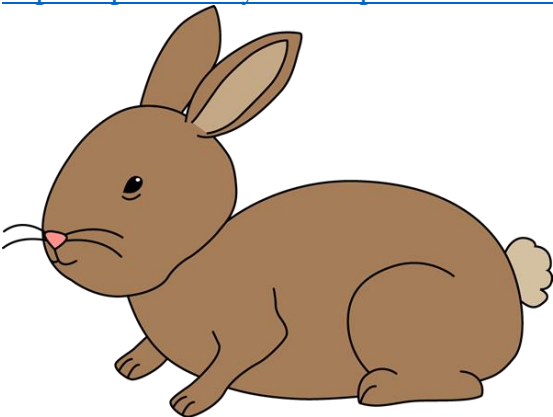
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