

Activity: Animal taboo game

Learning objectives

- To illustrate some key features of animals.
- Excellent oral communication activity.

10-15
mins

KS1
&2

Teacher Preparation

Cut and laminate animal taboo cards.

Equipment & Resources

A series of taboo cards that can be handed out to pupils (see below).

Main activity

1. This activity can be done as a whole class or you can split the class in to smaller groups.
2. Give one member of the group a taboo card. Ask them not to let anyone else see their card.
3. Ask the pupil to take on the role of the animal on their card. Ask them to read the information on the card sentence by sentence. See if the rest of the group can guess who they are. If they don't get it straight away give them more of the clues or act out the character but **do not** use the taboo word(s) at the bottom of each card.



Taboo word: Hedgehog

I live in hedgerows and woods but can also be found in gardens. My favourite food is slugs and snails which make me the gardener's friend. Don't be fooled by my spiky appearance I'm really rather shy.



Taboo word: Rat

People don't like me. In fact they try to kill me with traps and poison. I have nice brown fur but I think it's my tail that puts people off. I will live anywhere but my natural home is near water, especially rivers. I eat almost anything I find but foxes and owls love to eat me.



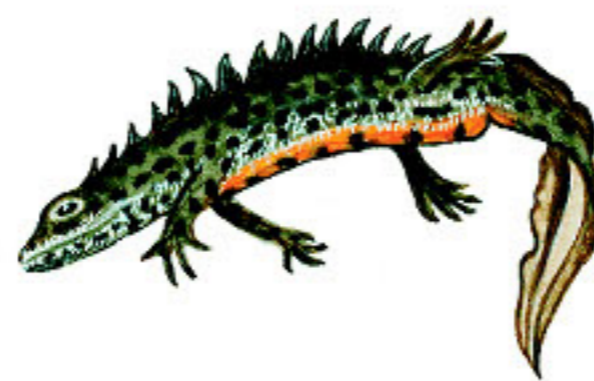
Taboo word: Red squirrel

I have lovely fur which is a red colour and have tufts on the tops of my ears. I live in the trees and eat mostly seeds and nuts. My grey cousin often takes my food and pushes me out of my natural habitats. I'm an endangered species in Northern Ireland.



Taboo word: Red Deer Stag

I am the largest land mammal in Northern Ireland. I used to be found all over the country in forests and hills. People used to hunt me for my meat and skin and used my head as trophies! Now I can only be found in a few places, usually high in the hills. In the autumn my bellow can be heard for miles as I fight ferociously with the other males to win females.



Taboo word: Newt

I have smooth skin and a tail which I use to swim. I can breathe under water but can often be found on land. I never stray too far from ponds or the river as most of my food is there, it is also where I lay my eggs. I am very small and delicate with spindly legs and much rarer than my cousin the frog.



Taboo word: Fox

I am the top land carnivore in Northern Ireland. I hunt mostly by night and mainly eat rabbits, rats, mice and anything else I can catch in my powerful jaws. My thick fur keeps me warm and pointed ears make hunting much easier but it is my tail that makes me famous. I live in woods and in the hills but can often be found living in the town raiding bins.