



Domestication

By the end of the lesson the learners will be able to:

- Name the animals that were domesticated by humans.
- Explain how and why domestication took place.
- Demonstrate understanding of the responsibility of humans towards domesticated animals.

Materials and preparation

- *Domestication image resource: dogs and wolves A3* for the starter activity
- *Domestication comparison images* for the starter and the main activity – enough for one page per group of four learners.
- Board and chalk/pen for questions asked to learners.
- Pre-prepare written questions and blank plenary activity on the board to save time during the lesson.

Key words

wild

An animal that lives on its own without any help from people.

domesticated

An animal who was bred by human beings to help them in some way.

tame

An animal who is used to human beings and is not wild or dangerous anymore.

species

A group of plants or other living things that all look similar and can reproduce.

breeding

To get animals to reproduce, sometimes by selecting which male and female to put together to breed.

Starter

Picture
comparison/
discussion
30 mins

Show the class the A3 pictures of the wolves in their natural environment and of the dog in a town. If learners don't know what a wolf is, it doesn't really matter as long as they can realise that they are wild creatures. Fix the pictures on the board if it is easier.

Ask the following questions:

1. **What are the differences between these two animals?** (answers should include: one looks dangerous, more wild, they live in their natural environment, they live in a pack whereas the other isn't scary, they live with humans, and not so much in packs unless they are stray).
2. **How do they get their food?** (answers should include: the wild-looking dogs hunt whereas the dogs we are familiar with get food from humans).
3. **Where do they live?** (if this answer hasn't been given yet, it should be: one lives in the wild whereas the other lives in town with humans).
4. **Are they the same species/ are they exactly the same animal?** After taking some answers, explain that the wild-looking dogs are called wolves and are not the same species as dogs. Although this is still debatable today!
5. **Are they related? How are they related?** After taking some answers, explain that all the dogs we know were once wild. They were wolves.
6. **What do you think happened?** Point to the pictures and ask: **How did we move from this** (the wolf picture) **to this?** (the dog picture).

Explain that the most tamed/least wild wolves pups started to get closer to human beings to eat scraps of their food and little by little, they started living side by side with humans, changing into a much less wild animal (tamed) throughout the years. Dogs started protecting humans while humans started feeding dogs. This process took thousands of years.

7. **How did domestication take place?** Take some answers, then point learners towards the correct answer by asking: Do you look like your mum, your dad or both? How do you look like them? Is it your nose? Your eyes? Do you act like them sometimes? Do you speak like them?

Explain: things get passed down from one generation to the next such as the way we look. This is what happened with domesticated animals: humans only chose the animals that were the easiest to

manage and let them reproduce to create more animals that were easy to manage. Little by little, wild animals turned into easy-to-manage, non-dangerous animals.

8. Split the class into groups of four and give each group one page from the *Domestication image resource: wild/domestication comparison* (each page has an image of a wild animal, the other of its corresponding domesticated animal). Each group will have to note down the differences between the wild animal and their corresponding domesticated animal.
9. Once the differences are written down, ask learners to report back what animals they had and how different they were.
10. Go through all the domestic animals with the class, getting them to repeat which animals were domesticated to help them remember them.

Main activity

*Comparing
pictures in groups
and reporting
15 mins*

Ask groups to use their set of animal pictures as a reference and to dramatize how their animal got progressively tamed: one learner should act wild, the next should act less wild and so on until the last version of the animal is domesticated and works well with the human being (learners will need to take on different roles).

Example: You are a human trying to get a sheep to stay with the rest of the herd but the sheep keep running away as they are not yet fully domesticated. The next version of the sheep would be more willing to stay with the herd. With horses, you could have one horse being too wild to be mounted followed by other versions becoming more and more easy to mount until the last version is completely domesticated and will be lead by a human.

Let groups practise these scenes for ten minutes before asking a few groups to demonstrate their work at the front.

Ask learners the following questions:

1. Can domesticated animals survive in the wild? (The answer should be 'no' because these animals are completely domesticated and not wild anymore. They wouldn't be able to look after themselves/ fend for themselves as they have become completely dependent on human beings)
2. Who is supposed to look after them? (The answer should be 'human beings' because we created them in the first place therefore we are responsible for their welfare: feeding them, providing shelter and treatment when they are not well or injured.)

Plenary

Recall

10 min

Ask learners to read the following summary of the lesson and to fill in the blank with the correct word (do this orally):

Domestication

Human beings domesticated some animals so that they could for them. They did this by choosing which animals should reproduce. This is called.....

Little by little, humans transformed these new animals that are now completely on them. These animals can't survive in the because they lost all the things that helped them survive before. We are for the domesticated animals we produced.

Words to choose from:

wild, dependent, responsible, work, breeding