

This Little Pig

Objective

Students will read about swine and complete vocabulary worksheets. Students will use plastic bottles to make models of different breeds of pigs and compare.

Background

Pigs and hogs are part of the swine family. Male swine are called “boars.” Female swine are called “gilts” before they have a litter of pigs and then they are called “sows.” Baby pigs are called “pigs” until they reach a weight of about 240 pounds. Then they are called “hogs.”

A sow gives birth to a litter of pigs about twice a year. A litter usually has eight to 12 baby pigs. Some people think pigs are greedy because that is how baby pigs look when they are competing for food from their mothers. But pigs never overeat. Once a pig is full, it stops eating.

Swine eat corn, wheat and other grains. Bacon, pork sausage, pork chops and ham all come from swine.

There are 377 breeds of pigs around the world. In Oklahoma the most common breeds are Duroc, Hampshire, Yorkshire, Poland and Spot. Duroc pigs are mostly red but can be yellow or golden yellow. They are medium in length with droopy ears. Yorkshire hogs are white. Hampshire hogs are black with a white belt. Poland hogs are black and have droopy ears. Spots are white, with black spots.

English Language Arts

1. Read and discuss background and vocabulary.
 - Students will raise their hands when they hear words that are unfamiliar.
 - Write those words on the chalkboard and discuss their meaning.
2. Write the word “pig” on the chalkboard.
 - Ask students what words they think of when you say the word “pig.”
 - Write the words on the chalkboard.
3. Students will list words that rhyme with “pig.”
4. Hand out Student Worksheet A.
 - Students will place swine-related words under the appropriate pictures.
5. Hand out Student Worksheet B.
 - Read the sentences to students.
 - Students will underline the vocabulary words in the sentences.
 - Students will draw pictures to illustrate vocabulary words.
6. Hand out copies of the Reading Page and Context Clues/Vocabulary Questions.
 - Students will read independently and use the Reading Page to answer questions on the worksheet.
7. Students will make a list of common phrases associated with swine (living high on the hog, acting like a pig in a poke, being in hog heaven).
 - Students will research the meaning of the phrases and their origins.
8. Read several different versions of “The Three Little Pigs.”
 - Students will compare the stories.
 - Students will write a modern version of the story.

Oklahoma Academic Standards

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Speaking and Listening:
R.1,2,3,4; W.1.

Phonological Awareness:2
Print Concepts: 2,4,5.
Reading and Writing Process:
R; W. Critical Reading and
Writing: R.2,3,4; W.
Vocabulary: 1,2,3

KINDERGARTEN

Speaking and Listening:
R.1,2,3,4; W.1.

Phonological Awareness:
2,6. Print Concepts: 2,4,5.
Fluency: 2. Reading and
Writing Process: R.1;
W.1,2,3. Critical Reading
and Writing: R.2,3,4; W.
Vocabulary: R.1,2,3; W.1
Physical Science: 2,2

GRADE 1

Speaking and Listening:
R.1,2,3,4; W.1.

Phonological Awareness:
1. Print Concepts: 1.
Fluency: 1. Reading and
Writing Process: R.1,3;
W.1,2. Critical Reading and
Writing: R.2,3,4; W.1.
Vocabulary: R.1,3; W.1

GRADE 2

Speaking and Listening:
R.1,2,3,4; W.1. Print
Concepts. Fluency: 1.
Critical Reading and
Writing: R.5,6,7; W.1.
Vocabulary: R.1,3; W.1
Physical Science: 1,2, 3

GRADE 3

Physical Science: 2,1
Earth & Space Science: 3,1

Vocabulary

boar—a mature male swine.

gilt—a young female swine that has not had a litter

hog—a large swine, weighing over 250 pounds

litter—the young born to an animal at a single time

pig—a small swine, weighing less than 250 pounds

sow—a mature female swine

swine—any of the family of mammals having short legs, cloven hooves, bristly hair and a hard snout used for digging

Materials

- 1-liter size plastic bottles
- markers
- clay
- popsicle sticks
- toothpicks
- sugar cubes
- coin rolling wrappers
- marshmallows
- recycled packing peanuts (made from corn)
- straws
- masking tape
- q-tips
- balloons
- yarn

9. Discuss the descriptions of the four swine breeds described in the background.
 - Write the names of the four breeds on the chalkboard, along with the descriptions.
 - Students will draw simple pictures of the four breeds and label them.
 - Each student will select one of the four breeds and make a model of it using plastic bottles and markers.
10. After completing their models, students will sort them according to breed.
 - Students will count the models from each breed and create simple graphs to show the distribution.

Science and STEM

1. Three Little Pigs House Building Challenge

- Divide students into small groups. Challenge each group to build a house that can stand when the “big bad wolf” comes to blow it down.
- Supply groups with building supplies, such as popsicle sticks, toothpicks, coin rolling wrappers, marshmallows, clay, sugar cubes, recycled packing peanuts (when wet they will stick together), straws, q-tips, masking tape, etc.
- Discuss what objects have properties best suited for building a strong house.
- Discuss how small objects can be assembled to make new objects, such as houses. Discuss how architects build houses to reduce the impact of weather related hazards, such as wind.
- When students complete houses, have them try to blow them down. For an extra strong wolf, use a hair dryer or fan.
- If houses are blown down, discuss how objects can be disassembled and reassembled to create new houses. How can they reduce the impact of the wind on their house?

2. The Three Little Racing Pigs Challenge

- Give students a copy of the racing pig to color and cut out. While they are doing this, tie yarn or string to make racing track and thread a straw onto each piece. See picture below.
- Have them blow up a balloon and hold it tight to keep air in. They will not tie it.
- Working with a partner, they will tape a straw (already attached to a string) onto the top of their balloon and their pig to the side of the balloon.
- When the race starts, students will let go of their balloons to race.
- Challenge students to experiment with different amounts of air, different placement of straw and/or pig, etc. to increase their speed. What is the effect of a balanced or unbalanced placement of the balloon on the straw or the pig on the balloon?
- Let students experiment with raising and lowering the string to create new angles. How does this affect the motion and speed of the racing pig?
- How does this change the speed or direction of their racing pig?



Extra Reading

- Burakoff, Aaron, *The Three Little Racing Pigs*, Evergreen Creations LLC, 2014.
- Galdone, Paul, *The Three Little Pigs*, Clarion Books, 1998.
- Geisert, Arthur, *Hogwash*, Houghton-Mifflin for Children, 2008.
- Gibbons, Gail, *Pigs*, Holiday House, 2003.
- Guarnaccia, Steven, *The Three Little Pigs: An Architectural Tale*, Abrams Books, 2010.
- Mansfield, Howard, and Barry Moser, *Hogwood Steps Out: A Good, Good Pig Story*, Roaring Book, 2008.
- McPhail, David, *Big Pig and Little Pig*, Harcourt Brace, 2003.
- Ray, Hannah, *Pigs*, Crabtree, 2008.
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse, *Little Oink*, Chronicle, 2005.
- Scieszka, Jon, *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs*, Puffin Books, 1996.
- Sendak, Maurice, *Bumble-ardy*, HarperCollins, 2011.
- Steig, William, *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*, Simon & Schuster, 2005.
- Trivizas, Eugene, *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig*, Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1993.
- Troupe, Thomas Kingsley, *What's the MATTER, with the Three Little Pigs? The Fairy-Tale Physics of Matter*, Picture Window Books, 2019.
- Wiesner, David, *The Three Little Pigs*, Clarion Books, 2001.

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Reading Page

Pigs and Hogs

Swine were among the first of all animals to be domesticated —around 6,000 years ago. A domesticated animal is one that is trained to live in a human environment and be of use to humans. The Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto brought the first swine to the New World in 1539.

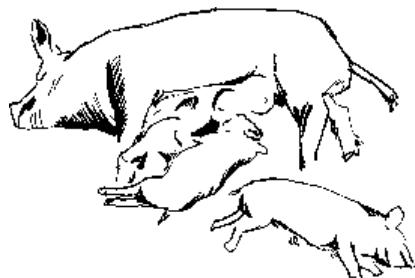
Female swine are called sows. Sows give birth to litters of pigs twice a year. Each litter usually has eight to 12 baby pigs. Giving birth to baby pigs is called farrowing. Baby pigs appear very greedy when they are competing for food from their mothers. For this reason the words “pig” and “hog” have come to be associated with greedy behavior. Despite their reputation, pigs will never overeat. Once a pig is full, it stops eating.

Pigs are weaned when they are two to four weeks old. They are called “nursery pigs” until they reach 50 pounds and “growing/finishing pigs” from then until they reach about 240 pounds. After that they are called hogs. Hogs are usually taken to market when they weigh 240-280 pounds.

In the past, hogs were fed table scraps and had a reputation for eating just about anything. The meat from hogs fed that way was very high in fat. Today’s swine producers are more careful about what they feed their animals. Some of the food fed to swine are corn, wheat and soybean meal. Vitamins and minerals are added to increase growth and improve health. Today’s hogs weigh more, but because producers plan their diets carefully, they grow more efficiently and yield more lean meat than ever before. Bacon, pork sausage, pork chops and ham all come from hogs. In addition, swine are used in the production of non-food products like fertilizer, glass, china, floor wax, chalk, crayons, and heart valves.

Pork provides protein, B-vitamins and thiamin to our diets. Pork has three times as much thiamin as any other food. Thiamin changes carbohydrates into energy and promotes a healthy appetite.

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Name _____

This Little Pig

A

Swine Words

litter

bacon

corn

boar

SOW

Write the swine words under the correct pictures. Color the pictures.

Name _____

This Little Pig

B

Underline the agriculture words in the sentences below.

1. This is a swine.
2. Swine eat corn.
3. A mother swine is called a sow.
4. The sow gives birth to a litter of baby pigs.
5. The daddy swine is called a boar.

Swine Words

sow
litter
swine
boar
corn

Name _____

Context Clues/Vocabulary Questions

1. What word from paragraph one means “trained to live in a human environment?”
a. trained b. domesticated c. farrowing d. swine

2. What word from paragraph 3 means “no longer drinking milk from the mother?”
a. nursery b. finishing c. market d. weaned

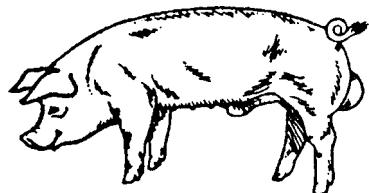
3. What does the word “litter” mean, as it is used in this story?
a. The young born to an animal at a single time.
b. A messy collection of things scattered about.
c. A device used to carry an injured person.

4. What word from the story could be included in this list of synonyms? Look in paragraph two.
grasping, coveting, desirous, unquenchable, piggish _____

5. What word from paragraph four means “to make better?” _____

6. Re-read this sentence from the story. “In the past, hogs were fed table scraps and had a reputation for eating just about anything.” What is another way to say that hogs had a reputation for eating just about anything?
a. Hogs were able to eat anything.
b. Hogs were known for eating anything.
c. Hogs refused to eat anything.

7. Which definition for “appetite” is closest to the way it is used in the last paragraph?
a. The need for food.
b. A strong wish for something.
c. Positive regard for something.



Name _____

Context Clues/Vocabulary (answers)

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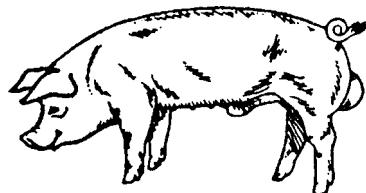
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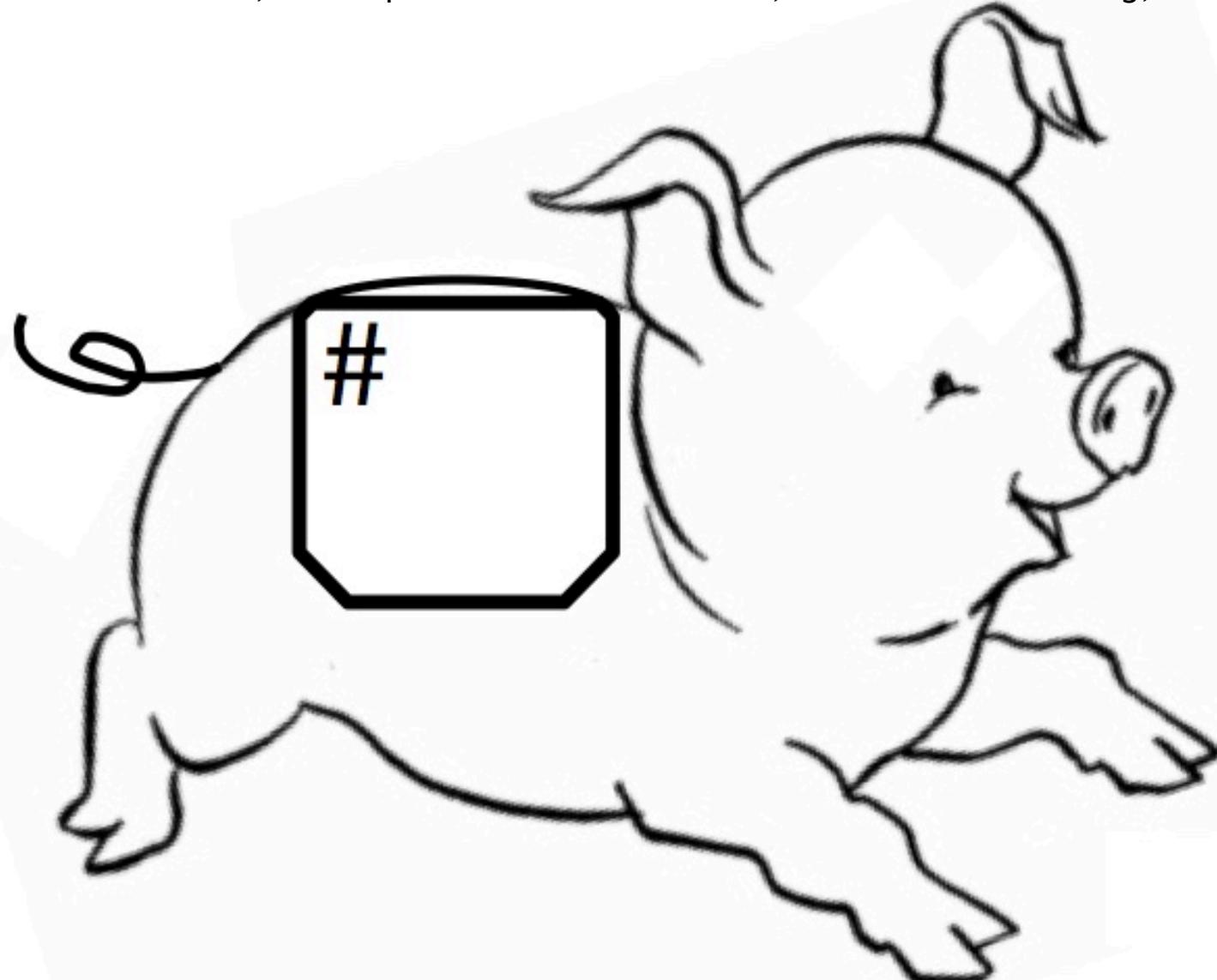
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Racing Pig

Design your own racing pig. Color the pig. Don't forget to add a number to the racing banner. Cut the pig out and tape it to a balloon, then tape the balloon to a straw, threaded onto a string, to race.



Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom is a program of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Oklahoma State Department of Education.