

Learning Activity

Pork – Farmer Says

20
minutes

Farmers ensure that pigs, and all livestock, have what they need to grow and thrive. Explore these with this variation on the game Simon Says.

1. What do animals need to survive? Discuss the importance of food, water, space, air, and protection from weather.
2. Pigs cannot sweat so they spread out and roll in the mud to cool off. Prepare for the movement activity by spreading out so students can move their arms and legs without hitting each other.
3. In this variation of Simon Says, when the Farmer (leader) calls out the following animal survival needs, students will perform the exercises in the box below. They will continue the exercise for about 30 seconds until the Farmer calls out a new survival need.

Farmer Says Animals need...	Student action
Food	High knees
Water	Swimming arms
Space	Arm swings
Air	Slow, deep breaths
Shelter	Find a partner. Face each other and chair squat with arms above your head to form a house shape.



Observation

Pigs

10
minutes

Iowa farmers raise more pigs than any other state. There are more pigs than people in Iowa.

Materials: Photos of pigs and piglets, including a close up of a pig's skin

1. Encourage students to look closely at the photos of pigs and piglets. What words describe how a pig looks? Pigs are smarter and more trainable than a dog.
2. Examine pictures of a pig's skin. What words describe how pig skin feels? Pigs cannot sweat, so they roll in the mud to cool off. What are ways humans stay cool in the summer? The mud also protects pigs from sunburn. How do humans protect themselves from sunburn?

Tasting Activity

Pork

10
minutes

1. Before passing out any samples, review Brave Tasting Expectations, including "Don't yuck someone else's yum" and "We all wait and try together."
2. If possible, offer a variety of pork cuts for students to compare such as bacon, pork loin, pork chop, or ham.
3. After tasting, ask students to voice their thoughts and "Vote with your thumb." Thumbs up, to the side, or thumbs down. I like it, it's okay, or no thank you.