

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Topic 3 of *Open Day 1 Home Connection*. We hope you enjoyed working with your child on Topic 2.

Topic 3 is called **Animal Magic**. We all know children love to learn about plants and animals, and you can encourage your child's curiosity by finding ways to help him or her connect with nature. In this topic, your child will learn to talk about farm animals and backyard animals and insects. He or she will talk about different parts of animals' bodies, what the animals can do and what they eat. The **Topic Preview Activity** is a great opportunity for you to show your child that you are interested in what he or she is learning in the English class. We will continue the theme of Animal Magic in our **Animal Activities** by looking at bees, their honey and their bodies. Did you know that honeybees are the only insects that produce food eaten by humans?

The **Mindfulness** section of this topic focuses on mindful listening. Your child will be encouraged to pay attention to everyday sounds and in this way, become more aware of the present moment. Studies show that mindful listening helps children learn to handle upsets more effectively and to respond more compassionately to others. In the **Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)** section, you will have the opportunity to help your child make simple observations of animals around him or her. Observing animals instills a sense of responsibility and respect for life. This is reinforced in the **Citizenship** section, where we will suggest that you read an animal story or watch a film with animal characters with your child.

This topic also shares our wonder of the natural world and some of the animals in it. In the **Closing Activity**, we will bring everything together by suggesting you make an animal star badge with your child. This will give you another opportunity to talk about animals as well as play a fun party game.

You don't have to do the activities all at once. We recommend that you try each of the activities after your child has completed the corresponding sections in their Student's Book or Practice Book. The corresponding Student's Book pages are indicated in each section. We hope you will enjoy taking this active role in your child's learning.



Topic Preview Activity Student's Book pages 72–73

Animal Magic

Being curious about the world around us is very important. Developing curiosity helps a child grow and learn. We suggest you spend some time as a family observing the different animals in the place where you live.

◆ Get Ready

Part 1

If you live near a farm, visit it and point out the different animals. If possible, ask the farmer to show you around. If you don't have a farm nearby, the next time you go shopping ask your child where he or she thinks different types of meat, milk and cheese come from.

Part 2

Go into your backyard. If you don't have a backyard, go for a walk in the park. Talk about the birds, reptiles and insects you see. Ask your child to find a spider or an ant. Ask him or her: *Where do they live? Why are they important?*

◆ Play / Spy

This is a fun game everyone will like. You can play it on your way to school, during a visit to the park or looking out the window of your house. Have your child choose an animal he or she sees and say *I spy an animal beginning with...* Encourage him or her to give clues about where the animal lives and what it can and can't do. Of course, if there aren't many animals around, you can extend this game to include other natural elements (trees, flowers, lakes, etc.).

Animal Activity Unit 5 Student's Book pages 76–77

◆ Get Ready

Do you know a fun, easy and delicious recipe that uses honey? In this activity, we're going to make one. You will need butter, some sugar, honey, cornflakes, chocolate, fruit or nuts for decorating, and cupcake molds or liners.

Did you know that the average bee makes only 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime, but a beehive produces between 50 to 100 jars a year? It is extremely hard work!

◆ Make Some Honey Joys

If you have the ingredients and equipment, why don't you make some honey joys with your child. Look at the video and read the recipe. They are easy to make and delicious to eat! You can substitute the candies for some fruit, nuts or dark chocolate to make them healthier.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVmR3FclhO8>

<http://www.soyunmix.com/2013/05/honey-joy.html>



Mindfulness Student's Book page 80

◆ Get Ready

This topic's mindfulness focus is mindful listening. The idea is for your child to become more aware of the sounds around him or her. This helps your child focus on the present moment.

◆ Play a Listening Game

Use the video below to play a listening game with your child. Listen carefully and guess each sound. Make sure you are sitting comfortably and listening carefully. Have fun!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1m4h79JZso>

Did you know that normally, bees are not aggressive, but if a female honeybee feels threatened she may sting? Female honeybees die when they sting. Male honeybees can't sting.

Animal Activity Unit 6 Student's Book pages 90–91

◆ Get Ready

Find a picture of a bee and point to where the stinger is (at the end of the abdomen). You can see it on a diagram here:

http://www.bee-stings.net/how_a_bee_stings.htm

For this activity you will need a poster paper, pens or pencils, crayons or coloured pens and a long piece of cloth for blindfolding.

◆ Play *Draw the Sting on the Bee*

To play this game, draw a large picture of a bee and stick it on the wall. Then give your child a pencil or crayon. Blindfold your child, turn him or her around a couple of times and then see if he or she can draw the bee sting on the correct place on the bee. You can have lots of fun playing this with the rest of your family or with your child's friends.



◆ Get Ready

Looking at animals and insects with your child is a good way to stimulate his or her curiosity. Observing and recording the world around him or her also develops science skills.

For this activity you will need a notebook, some pencils and some crayons or coloured pencils. Start by asking your child why he or she thinks it is important to have animals and insects living in your area. Explain some of the benefits that animals and insects bring: birds, bees and butterflies help flowers and other plants grow, spiders eat flies and mosquitoes, and ants and worms are good for the soil.

◆ Go On Safari

Take a walk around the area where you live or in a park near your home. Help your child make a list of the animals and insects he or she sees. Choose one or two animals or insects and get your child to sit quietly and draw it. Explain that it is best not to get too close to some animals or they might get frightened. Other animals can also be dangerous. If you want, you can repeat this at a different time of the day or on another day when the weather is different. See if the list of animals is different. Ask your child why he or she thinks this is. Remember to always be positive and encouraging about your child's answers.



Citizenship Student's Book page 98

◆ Get Ready

The value for this topic is helping animals, which in turn helps develop respect for other people. Stories that include animals as characters can help your child have empathy for them. Think of stories with animals as characters and share them with your child.

◆ Read Classic Stories

Here are some suggested classic stories you can read with your child:

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

The Brer Rabbit Collection by Enid Blyton

Animals and insects are popular characters in films and on TV shows too. Here are some examples you and your child will enjoy:

Chicken Run

Maya The Bee

Antz

Finally, here is a fun cartoon about bugs from 1932. It shows that even though times have changed a lot, people still laugh at the same things!

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2088jr>

An Animal Star Badge

Animal star badges are a good way of getting your child to talk about his or her favourite animals. You can make as many as you want: one for your child, one for each member of your family or one for each of your child's friends. For this activity you will need a piece of card, a pencil and rubber, some colours, scissors and glue, adhesive tape and some safety pins.

◆ Get Ready

Ask your child to say what different animals he or she has been investigating in this topic (farm animals, backyard animals and insects). Make noises for the different animals and have your child guess them. Then ask your child which animal he or she wants to choose for his or her animal star badge. Get your child to say as much as he or she can about the animal: what it looks like, where it lives, what it can and can't do, why he or she likes it, etc.

◆ Make an Animal Star Badge

To make the badge, help your child cut out the shape of a star and two circles. Make sure one circle fits inside the star and the other circle is bigger than the star. If you are using coloured cards, use different colours. If not, colour in your shapes. Then have your child draw the animal he or she has chosen on the small circle. (Your child can choose if he or she wants to draw only the face, or the whole animal.) After that, help your child stick the small

circle inside the star and the star inside the bigger circle. Finally, help your child to secure a safety pin to the back of his or her badge using an adhesive tape.

Your child can wear his or her animal badge or use animal badges to play party games with his or her friends. The game *Like a Bug* is good fun. To play this game, first write these action verbs on different pieces of paper: *walk, run, jump, climb, swim, fly, talk, eat*. Then put the pieces of paper in a bag. Children take out one of the pieces of paper and do the action like the animal on their animal star badge. It's great fun!

