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DEBATE

This is a 'race to the top' debate, pitting two teams against each other to put forward their ideas for why their animal is the most important animal of all. The remaining children award marks to decide on the winning team for each round.

Activity preparation

Group children into teams of three to five and assign each group an animal from *The Most Important Animal of All*. The recommended number of groups is six, which allows for a

semi-final with one team promoted straight to the final from the first round. Plan the groups in advance and provide a copy of the relevant animal page from the book for children to use to form their arguments.



Main activity

Each group has an assigned animal, copy of the relevant animal page from the book and a planning sheet. Teams should plan a minimum of five arguments each for why their animal is the most important animal of all. During the debate, each team has the opportunity to put forward an argument, taking turns. The remainder of the children complete a Debate Record to encourage them to listen and reflect on the arguments presented. Continue to hear all the debates in each round with the audience deciding which teams win and progress in the race to the top.

Extension activity

A debate could be carried out based on the children's individual research of their own animal. This would work well as a follow-on activity from **Activity 4: Animal Fact File**.



English National Curriculum links:

- listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers
- ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge
- articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions
- give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives for different purposes, including for expressing feelings
- maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments
- participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates
- gain, maintain and monitor the interest of the listener(s)
- consider and evaluate different viewpoints, attending to and building on the contributions of others

Planning Sheet

Name

Our animal is _____

Argument 1: _____

Argument 2: _____

Argument 3: _____

Argument 4: _____

Argument 5: _____

Extra arguments:

How to play

Name

Group	Debate mark ✓ = quite good argument ✓✓ = good argument ✓✓✓ = very good argument	Strongest point
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

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1		
2		
3		
4		
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6		
7		