

# Let's Watch Our Guinea Pig Grow!

## "Year-Long" Lesson Plan

### Second Grade

#### Objectives:

1. Students will be able to understand the needs of our classroom guinea pig.
2. Students will be able to care for our classroom guinea pig.
3. Students will be able to measure, weigh, and track our guinea pig's growth over the course of the school year.
4. Students will be able to make logical predictions concerning our guinea pig's growth by using the data they collect and knowledge that they gain from reading.

#### Day 1

Students will have 10 minutes to respond to the following question in their writing notebooks:

- What do you know about guinea pigs?

We will come together as a group on the carpet where students will be able to share their thoughts as I record them on a class anchor chart.

Next, students will have 5 minutes to respond to the following question on a notecard:

- What do you wonder about guinea pigs?

Students will tape their notecards on a second class anchor chart, and we will come together at the carpet to read through and discuss each "wonder."

At this point I will tell my students that we will be getting a baby guinea pig the following week! I will also give them a permission slip to take home to families.

#### Days 2-4

I will visit our school and public library to gather many books about guinea pig care. I will also print off articles and easy readers about guinea pigs. Students will have 15 minutes each day to read about guinea pigs and record their learning on a web graphic organizer.

## **Day 5**

We will come together as a class to create a guinea pig care plan, using all of the knowledge that students have gathered over the past three days. Our care plan will hang right next to our guinea pig's cage.

At this point, I will also show students our guinea pig's habitat and food to familiarize them with everything.

We'll discuss how guinea pigs like quiet spaces and that we'll need to keep our excitement under control when we meet our new pet the next day! I'll also tell students that a very special guest will be bringing our guinea pig. My sister is a veterinary technician and will be visiting our class every 2 weeks to help with this project!

## **Day 6**

This is the day that our guinea pig will arrive! My sister will bring her in and introduce her to my students, carrying her around so each one may see and touch her. My sister will discuss guinea pig care, weigh our guinea pig, and measure our guinea pig, as I record the data on a large anchor chart.

## **Continuous Activities**

My sister will visit every 2 weeks to help my students check up on, weigh, and measure our guinea pig. They will work in small groups with her to do this. Students will begin to record the data on their own graphs, and make predictions as to how much our guinea pig might grow by the next time my sister visits.

During math time we'll discuss graphing, data-collecting, and predicting in depth.

During reading students will be tasked with researching the growth of guinea pigs and using their knowledge to make better predictions. They will also be given a sticky note to record any questions that they might want to ask my sister on her next visit.

## **Closure**

At the end of the school year students will reflect on our guinea pig's growth verbally, in writing, or through artwork. They'll reflect upon how much she has grown and changed, and how much they have learned about caring for her! We'll also make a special "Thank You" book for my sister including letters and pictures from each student.

Thank you so much for this opportunity, and for helping me care for our classroom pet each year!

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