

Guinea Pig Project Based Learning Lesson Plan  
2nd grade class  
Pearl Zanker Elementary School  
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Objective: Students will learn about habitat, behavior, caring needs, diet, and pros and cons of owning a guinea pig.

#### DAY 1: Introducing the Guinea Pig

Students will be introduced to the class pet, which happens to be a guinea pig and come up with rules about what we should do to provide a safe environment for the pet. Using the chart paper, the teacher will jot down the ideas and then final votes will be taken to have 5-6 rules that make the most sense to the class.

#### DAY 2: Project Based Learning Starts

Ask the class what we should do to learn about the guinea pig so we can provide the best care and to be the best pet owners. Jot down ideas such as what they need to sleep, eat, and how to exercise. Jot down ideas as to how should be educate others who might come into our classrooms to see the pet.

Based on the responses, announce to the class that for next 2 weeks, we will be learning as much as possible about our guinea pig and will be working in groups to educate ourselves and others. Each group will have a week to work on their group project and then we will go around the classes that sign up to present our findings.

#### DAY 3: Divide up the groups and look for research materials

Divide the group into :

1. Food
2. Habitat and General Care
3. Exercises
4. Pros/Cons of owning a guinea pig

#### DAY 4: How to research safety on internet

Using chromebooks, teach students how to research safely in internet. Talk about being specific in their research and pick couple of safe sites we will be using to research. One of the site is--  
<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts.html>

DAY 5 : Work Session--- Talk about cooperative learning and delegating jobs in a group, so that there will be less conflicts. Come up with some of the jobs to accomplish the task of finishing the research poster

One of the job is --- researcher (2)-- looks up facts  
----reader--- reads all the facts  
----summarizer--summarizes the information  
----Fact Puller--- pulls out important facts they should include in their paper  
----Illustrator--- illustrates facts or pictures under the facts on the poster they  
will be sharing with other classes

DAY 6-7 Work Session

Problem solve and help anyone/groups who need assistance

DAY 8,9--- Each group present their fact/research poster with the class

Learn how to give feedback to the groups that present (Voice control, posture, cohesiveness, etc)

DAY 10-- Go to 2 classes to present

The whole class goes together to present. Take the guinea pig to show the other classes.  
Come back to discuss and review how the presentation went and see what we could improve.

DAY 11, 12, 13--- Do more presentations

Extensions---- For 3rd graders, they can make powerpoint presentations. Students can also  
make their own brochures about guinea pig facts, caring instructions, etc.