



Donald the Bearded Dragon has been in the classroom for about 3 years. He started out in 1st grade and loved his time there. Last year he got the chance to work with 5th graders (which he loves). Donald has made connections with many students. It's hard to pinpoint one specific lesson because we have had many lessons and discussions centered on Donald. These are some of the activities and life lessons he has been involved in.

- Responsibility- students rotate taking care of him. This includes Feeding, water, cleaning cage, monitoring temperature and holding him. This is a big incentive, especially for the student who may have behavioral challenges.
- Self Confidence- Students also rotate reading to Donald. He is a very good listener. This is a wonderful way to build fluency and give struggling readers the self-confidence they need to be successful!
- Compassion- We have many discussions about being a kind person. If a child learns to be compassionate toward animals odds are he/she will grow up to be a compassionate adult. Animals teach us compassion.
- Social Studies- When Donald came into our class- he did not have a name. Yes, it was election year so we had a vote on his name.
- Science- Ecosystems- Donald helps us learn about the desert environment. 5th grade students did a research project on what Donald would need to live in the desert vs. captivity.
- Math- students monitor temperature and graph temp. daily. We look for any fluctuations- when is it time to change bulb etc.

- Language Arts- Reading to Donald, Writing Donald letters, writing a journal from Donald's perspective (point of view).

These are only a few ways that Donald enhances our classroom. We all know that teachers are on a limited budget, so this would help tremendously with Donald's care. Even though he is a small reptile, it takes money to provide quality care for him- bulb replacements, uvb bulbs, etc. If Donald is picked for "Pets in the Classroom" he would greatly appreciate it!!