## Lesson Plan: Animal Fur

**Standards:** Kindergarten Science- Observe and describe animals in the local environment

**Objectives-Students will learn**:

* an understanding of why fur is important for mammal survival
* how to differentiate animal fur
* to use scientific thinking regarding animal fur and what one can tell about the animal’s habitat based on its fur
* will understand how white tail deer use their white tails to communicate

**Vocabulary:** mammals, predator, prey, camouflage, domestic animals, wild animal, habitat

**Materials:** Pictures of animals listed. Fur samples (White tail deer, moose, buffalo, elk, big horn sheep (Werner Wildlife will loan these to teachers, if requested in advance, ph. # 235-2108) Smart board with internet connection, research materials.

**Anticipatory Set**: On your Smart board or computer, play the sounds of the animals and have students guess the animal. Find audio for animals at:

White Tail Deer: <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/white-tailed-deer/>

Elk: <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/elk/?source=A-to-Z>

Moose: <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/moose/>

**Procedure:**

1. Ask students: What can you tell about an animal that has fur? Common answers: It is a mammal, type of climate it lives in)
2. Ask: Why do mammals need fur? (see answers below\*)
3. Discuss the difference between domestic and wild animals
4. Have kids sit in circle
5. Hold up hides one at a time and have the kids guess the animal
6. Ask questions: what can you tell about the animal based on its fur? Share facts about the animal as you introduce the fur
7. Pass furs around for each students to touch
8. Have students chose a wild animal to research and create an animal booklet, using simple words and drawings or printed pictures

**Enrichment:** Explore Werner Wildlife Museum in Casper, Wyoming.

 \*Answers for question 2:

* camouflage(color helps camouflage animals from predators or prey by matching the environment they live in)
* to regulate body temperature (dark fur absorbs heat, warming an animal; light colors reflect sun, keeping an animal cooler)
* filter ultraviolet radiation
* can be used to communicate, for example: the under-color of a white-tailed deer's tail serves as a flag to warn other deer of danger. Hair can also communicate social information about a mammal's state of mind, such as the hair standing up on the back of a wolf or dog which indicates that it feels threatened or is ready to attack. And, in the case of the porcupine and its quills, hair can provide protection from predators.

Follow up lesson: **Horns verses Antler**

**Pictures of animals:**





