Top That!

by Frances Bates-Treloar

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Solutions for English Teaching

Level: Common European Framework (CEF) level A2, Pre-intermediate
Target age: 6-12
Time needed: 30-40 minutes
Language: Revision of *How?* questions: *How long…? How many…? How heavy…?*; animals, size, height, age, weight, body parts, measurements
Materials: one set of 20 animal cards per pair or group of students

Introduce the language

With the whole class, revise questions with *How long…?; How many…?; How heavy…?* Elicit the meanings of the abbreviations: *kg* (kilograms), *m* (metre) and *cm* (centimetre). Check that the children understand the way thousands are written in English: *1,000* and *10,000* etc, as opposed to the decimal point used in numbers which are not whole (e.g. 1.75) etc.

Preparation

Briefly explain the rules of the game. In pairs or groups of three, students play with a set of cards, each one with data about an animal such as length, weight etc. They have an equal number of cards each and hold them face up in a pile. One student asks the other(s) about the cards which are on the top of each pile, e.g. *How long is your animal?* The student with the longest animal gets to keep all the cards. The game continues until one person has all the cards or has the most cards when a time limit is reached.

Worksheet

Cut out one set of cards for each pair in the class and keep them as separate sets. This is very simple, but could be time-consuming for larger classes. You could copy the sets onto card and laminate them so they can be re-used.

Model the questions to ask for each piece of data on the cards using a set of the animal cards to revise the questions and answers. Give one student a card and ask him/her questions about it. Then ask the rest of the class to guess the animal.

For example:
How heavy is a tiger?
How long is a tiger?
How many legs does a tiger have?
How long is a tiger's tail?
How many babies does a tiger have?

Instructions

1. Put students in pairs or groups of three. Give out one set of animal cards per group and explain the game.
2. Ensure that they deal out the cards equally and that they hold their cards in a pile, face up in their hands.
3. Choose the first person to play by tossing a coin. He/she should choose one piece of information which is likely to beat the other players' cards (it's likely to be the longest/heaviest/have most legs etc.).
4. The first player asks the other players about the data on their cards, e.g. How many legs has your animal got? The other players answer about their first cards, and the player whose card *trumps* the other cards wins the other players' cards.

Note: for a huge archive of animal pictures, go to http://animalpicturesarchive.com/

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Animal	Tiger	**Animal**	Red kangaroo
Number of legs	4	**Number of legs**	4
Length	2m	**Length**	1.3m
Length of tail	1m	**Length of tail**	1.1m
Weight	200kg	**Weight**	60kg
Max. number of babies	3	**Max. number of babies**	1
Animal	Fruit bat	**Animal**	Night monkey
Number of legs	2	**Number of legs**	4
Length	15cm	**Length**	39cm
Length of tail	1.75cm	**Length of tail**	32cm
Weight	160g	**Weight**	20kg
Max. number of babies	1	**Max. number of babies**	1

Animal	European rabbit	**Animal**	Black rat
Number of legs	4	**Number of legs**	4
Length	44cm	**Length**	20cm
Length of tail	6cm	**Length of tail**	22cm
Weight	1.75kg	**Weight**	200g
Max. number of babies	12	**Max. number of babies**	10
Animal	Blue whale	**Animal**	Bottlenose dolphin
Number of legs	0	**Number of legs**	0
Length	25m	**Length**	2.5m
Length of tail	-	**Length of tail**	-
Weight	130,000kg	**Weight**	500kg
Max. number of babies	1	**Max. number of babies**	1

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Animal	Red fox	**Animal**	Brown bear
Number of legs	4	**Number of legs**	4
Length	80cm	**Length**	2.5m
Length of tail	40cm	**Length of tail**	7.5cm
Weight	8kg	**Weight**	700kg
Max. number of babies	12	**Max. number of babies**	3
Animal	Zebra	**Animal**	White Rhino
Number of legs	4	**Number of legs**	4
Length	2.5m	**Length**	3.75m
Length of tail	50cm	**Length of tail**	70cm
Weight	280kg	**Weight**	2,200kg
Max. number of babies	1	**Max. number of babies**	1

Animal	Bactrian camel	**Animal**	Honey bee
Number of legs	4	**Number of legs**	6
Length	2.75m	**Length**	2cm
Length of tail	53cm	**Length of tail**	-
Weight	500kg	**Weight**	-
Max. number of babies	2	**Max. number of babies**	100 eggs per day
Animal	White shark	**Animal**	Giant octopus
Number of legs	0	**Number of legs**	8
Length	7m	**Length**	5m
Length of tail	-	**Length of tail**	-
Weight	2000kg	**Weight**	35kg
Max. number of babies	14	**Max. number of babies**	-

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Animal	Grey wolf	**Animal**	Black widow spider
Number of legs	4	**Number of legs**	8
Length	150cm	**Length**	3cm
Length of tail	45cm	**Length of tail**	-
Weight	60kg	**Weight**	1g
Max. number of babies	7	**Max. number of babies**	-
Animal	Nile Crocodile	**Animal**	Anaconda
Number of legs	4	**Number of legs**	0
Length	3.5m	**Length**	9m
Length of tail	1.5m	**Length of tail**	-
Weight	1,200kg	**Weight**	150kg
Max. number of babies	80	**Max. number of babies**	-