



Spooky spiders and pesky rats

PSHE, citizenship and English

Years 1 & 2

Duration: 40-45 minutes



Objectives:

- To consider how we feel about some types of animals and whether we should regard them in a more positive light.
- To appreciate aspects of homelessness and discrimination.

Curriculum links:

CITIZENSHIP KS1: 1) a, b 2) a, e 4) b

PSHE KS1: L3, R4, R5, R6

ENGLISH: Spoken language years 1-6

Resources:

- Spider image
- Questions relating to the video I'm Just Not Keen on Spiders
- Rat image
- Copy of That Pesky Rat book by Lauren Child
- Question slips for That Pesky Rat story
- Sticky (Post-it) notes

[Animalkind film link - Section 1: The wonderful world of animals](#)

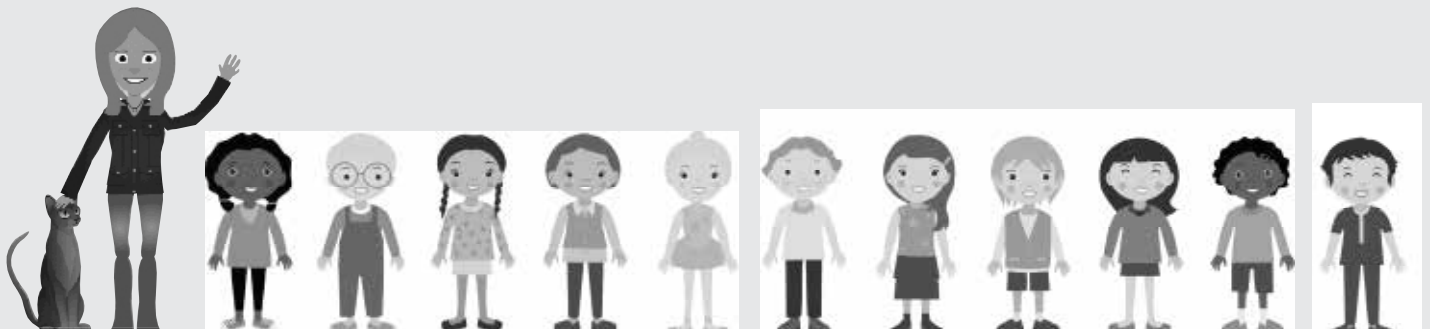
Starter activity:

- 1) If not already shown, play the Animalkind film section 1: The wonderful world of animals.
 - Discussion point: What amazing things can animals do that we can't?
- 2) Display the spider image on the whiteboard.
 - Ask children to form mixed ability groups of three to discuss what they know or think about spiders.

Main activity:

1) SPOOKY SPIDERS

- Show the video Charlie and Lola I'm Just Not Keen on Spiders.
- Invite the children, working in pairs to role-play parts of the story.
- Place the question slips from the Questions relating to the I'm Just Not Keen on Spiders sheet on each of the pairs' tables.



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- Tell the partners to take it in turns to read out the questions. After each has been read, the pair discuss their answer.
- If pairs finish all their questions on the first part of the story, they can write their own questions and/or list useful and amazing things that spiders can do on sticky (Post-it) notes.
- Gather feedback on the answers given by the children to questions and open up to the class any that children have written themselves.
- Discuss what useful things and clever things spiders do.

2) PESKY RATS

- Read the first half of the story *That Pesky Rat* to the class (up to and including Nibbles the rabbit p17).
- Invite the children, working in pairs, to role-play, or act out, parts of the story.
- Read the second half of the story *That Pesky Rat* to the class.
- Invite the children, working in pairs, to role-play or act out, parts of the concluding half of the story.
- Ask the children how they would look after a rat if they had one as a pet. What would they call him/her? What would their rat need to make sure they are healthy and happy?
- NB Rats are:
 - intelligent and need lots of toys
 - highly social and need the company of their own kind
 - active and need lots of exercise
- Rat facts:
 - Rats purr like cats when they are happy (and boggle their eyes)
 - Rats will run an average of two miles a day
 - Rats are so smart that they can recognize their names and respond when called

Plenary:

- Ask if anyone has changed their minds about rats or spiders and if so, why. Alternatively, ask any children who expressed negative opinions at the start of the lesson if they've changed their mind.
- Ask if anyone can think of any other animal that people don't like (such as sharks, snakes and pigeons).
- Ask if they can suggest a reason why they should like them.



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Optional lesson development:

Invite children to:

- Write a diary entry as if they were Pesky the rat, Charlotte or Charlie.
- Create a poster on the great things that rats and spiders can do.
- Write a positive acrostic poem about spiders or rats.

Alternative lesson arrangement:

- Swap the tasks: Read *That Pesky Rat* and use the question slips, then show the video *I'm Just Not Keen on Spiders* and ask children to role-play parts of the story.

Resources available on the Animalkind website

- **Rat image** (for displaying on whiteboard)
- **Spider image** (for displaying on whiteboard)
- **Charlie and Lola video *I'm Just Not Keen on Spiders*** (for displaying on whiteboard)
- **Question slips for the *I'm Just Not Keen on Spiders* story** (one set per pair of students)
- **Question slips for the *That Pesky Rat* story** (one set per pair of students)





Rat image



Spider image





Question slips for *I'm Just Not Keen on Spiders* story

Question slips for *I'm Just Not Keen on Spiders* story

1) Why is Lola scared of spiders?

2) Why did Lola decide that she liked caterpillars?

3) Why did Lola decide that she liked worms?

4) What do people usually do to spiders they find in the house?

5) How did Charlie catch the spider?

6) Why does Lola say you should not kill spiders?

7) What amazing things can spiders do?

8) Do you think that Sidney would be happy in Lola's miniature house?

9) Why would spiders prefer to be outside?

10) Can you think of any other animals that people don't like?



Question slips for *That Pesky Rat* story

Question slips for *That Pesky Rat* story

1) Why do people call him 'that pesky rat'?

2) What does Pesky rat dream about at night in his crisp packet?

3) Why would Pesky rat like to live with Madame Fifi?

4) Why does Pesky rat say he doesn't like having baths?

5) Do you think that animals such as Nibbles like working in the circus?

6) Why is Andrew embarrassed when he is taken for a walk?

7) What does Mrs Trill tell Pesky rat to do? Why?

8) Why does Pesky rat's notice work?

9) In what ways does Pesky rat help Mr Fortesque?

10) What name does Mr Fortesque give Pesky rat? Why?