

Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to understand the basic anatomy of a cat.

Materials and Prep

- Internet access
- Notebook and pen/pencil

No prior knowledge is required for this lesson.

Activities

- **Research:** Use the internet to find information about cat anatomy. Take notes on the different body parts and their functions.
- **Labeling:** Draw a cat on a piece of paper and label its various body parts. Use your notes from the research activity to help you.
- **Comparative Anatomy:** Compare the anatomy of a cat to that of a human or another animal. Write down similarities and differences.
- **Model Making:** Create a 3D model of a cat's anatomy using clay or other craft materials. Be sure to include all the major organs and body systems.

Talking Points

- **The Skeletal System:** The bones provide structure and support for a cat's body. They protect the internal organs and allow for movement. For example, the spine allows a cat to bend and twist.
- **The Muscular System:** Muscles are responsible for a cat's movement. They work in pairs, with one muscle contracting while the other relaxes. This allows cats to run, jump, and pounce.
- **The Digestive System:** Cats have a specialized digestive system designed for processing meat. Their teeth are sharp and pointy to help tear flesh, and their stomach produces strong acids to break down the food.
- **The Respiratory System:** Cats breathe through their nose and mouth. The air travels down the windpipe into the lungs, where oxygen is exchanged for carbon dioxide. Cats also have a keen sense of smell.
- **The Circulatory System:** The heart pumps blood throughout the cat's body, delivering oxygen and nutrients to the cells. The blood vessels carry the blood to different parts of the body.
- **The Nervous System:** Cats have a complex nervous system that allows them to sense their surroundings and react to stimuli. Their brain controls all their bodily functions and enables them to think and learn.
- **The Reproductive System:** Female cats have a uterus where they carry and give birth to their kittens. Male cats have testes that produce sperm. Breeding is an essential part of a cat's life cycle.