

Name: _____ Teacher: _____ School: _____

Grade 1: Lesson 18 Why Puppies Play? Part 1 by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

Lesson Objective: Students will use Why Do Animals Play? to understand why animals in the wild play with a focus on key details and connections between different animals such as deer and lion.

Puppies love to run and tumble. They chase each other around the yard. They wrestle and nip each other gently.

A kitten will pounce on a toy mouse or leap high for a piece of yarn. Why do animals play? For the same reason YOU play— because it's FUN!

But there is more to animal play than just fun. For animals in the wild, play is important to their very survival. Young animals have to learn about their world. They have to exercise their muscles and practice all the skills they will need to be successful adults.

Sometimes a young deer will leap and frolic.

With each twisting, twirling dance, the fawn's legs are getting stronger. It is learning how to run fast and zigzag to confuse predators. That will keep it safe when it is time to leave its mother's side.

While deer have to learn to escape from predators, young lion cubs must learn how to hunt. When a cub is little, it stalks its brother or sister. It will slink along on crouched legs.

When the moment seems right, the cub pounces! The other cub bats back with its paws and wriggles free. The cubs keep their claws in, though, and their bites are gentle. The cubs are not trying to hurt each other. They are playing at being great hunters. This is practice for the real thing.

Guided Practice:

Independent practice

Pick one of the animals we read about today.

- Write 1-2 sentences that tell how and why the animal plays.
- Use words from the chart we made to help you write your sentences. Try to use as many as you can.
- Start your sentences with capital letters.
- End your sentences with the correct punctuation.

Source from EL Education