Talking Points and Discussion Questions to use with *What Is A Family?*

*What Is A Family?* celebrates the diversity within the family unit. Using the names of animal groups as the central learning theme, this book explores the idea that, “families are special, though not all the same. It’s the caring and sharing that gives them the name.”

Secondary learning themes include alphabet recognition, vocabulary expansion, compare and contrast, and an introduction to simple rhyme.

**Talking points and discussion questions to help your students engage:**

Q: What were some of your favorite animal families in the book? What made them your favorite?

Q: Did you notice the rhyming words in the book?

Q: Can you rhyme your name with another word?

Q: Each family group in the book is called something different. A group of ants is called a colony. A group of bats is called a cloud. How many of the group names did you already know? (Depending on the students’ ability, you could begin a preliminary discussion of collective nouns and their function.)

Q: What were some of the animal group names you didn’t know? Did some of the group names sound strange to you? Which ones?

Q: Group names help describe the characteristics of a certain group of animals, people, or things. What characteristic do each of the following animals have that might explain their group name? A group of chickens is a peep. A group of bats is a cloud. A group of mice is a mischief. A group of lions is a pride.

Q: Did the animal families on each page of the book look or act the same as the other animal families? Discuss the differences.

Q: Differences make us special. Just like the animal families in the book are unique, none of your families look exactly the same as your classmates’ families. What are some of the things that make your family special?

Q: What do you think makes a family a family?
Color and Cut Out the Poster

Animals have families. People do too. But YOUR family is lucky because they have YOU!
Count the animals

How many can you count?

Teaching tools for
Help Nosey the Narwhal swim to his friends
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How many in each family?
Cut and Paste Family

Color your family members then cut and paste them into the frame on the next page.

TEACHERS - For students with larger families print extra copies of this page

Draw your own here
Cut and Paste Family

Paste your family members in the frame

Families are special, though not all the same. It's the caring and sharing that gives them the name.
Thank you!

Thank you for downloading our teaching tools. We hope your students enjoy these activities!

*What Is a Family* is written by Annette Griffin and illustrated by Nichola Cowdery.

Available through Familius Publishing