ROLE PLAY

SCIENCE

Best in Show - Classification

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Age Group:	7-9
Topic:	Classification
Learning Outcome:	To be able to recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways.
Drama Overview:	The children will create a role play about an invertebrate who has won 'Invertebrate - Best in Show' in the style of a dog show, such as Crufts. They will incorporate the classification information they know about the given invertebrate to create a commentary about the winning invertebrate.
Prior Learning:	The children will have had experience of, and be able to recognise, that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways. They will have explored and used classification keys to support them in grouping, identifying and naming a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. Before completing the drama activity, they will need to know the sub groups for invertebrates: Molluscs, Annelids, Myriapods, Insects, Crustaceans and Arachnids. They should also know which groups specific examples belong to, such as: Garden Snail, Earthworm, Brown Centipede, Ladybird, Shore Crab, Garden Spider.

DELIVERING THE DRAMA

Read the script below and use a cuddly toy dog as your muse. Exaggerate when you are commenting on the dog's features and characteristics.

Script - Commentator at Dog Show

Say:	Welcome to the annual Best in Show - the most prestigious Dog Show in the world. Our winner this year is Lando the Labrador.
	Let me tell you a little about Labradors. As a dog, they have four legs, a tail that tells you what mood they are in, and a superb sense of smell that is thousands of times stronger than a human's.

The Labrador takes the crown today. Look at that stunning golden coat and that confident gait. Truly a breed defined by intelligence, friendliness, and an eagerness to please.

Labradors have a thick, strong tail that is wide at the base and ends in a point. It's called an otter tail because they use it like a powerful rudder to help them steer when they are swimming. Labs have a double coat of soft under-fur for warmth and a tough, oily outer layer that keeps the water out, making them excellent swimmers. Their paws have extra skin between their toes, resembling flippers, which also helps them to swim well.

Labradors were bred for retrieving so they have soft muscles in their mouths, allowing them to carry raw eggs without breaking the shell. Labradors are known for loving food, as their brains are wired to constantly seek snacks, making them easy to train with treats.

A well-deserved victory for a perfect companion.

Say: The commentator was giving a speech at a dog show - a competition where owners can bring their different dogs into a big warehouse and then the animals are judged on how they look, how they move and what they can do, to find the best dog in the show. The commentator, delivering the voiceover, talked about the qualities and characteristics the winning dog had.

Say: We are going to use the scenario of a competition but instead of having dogs in our show we are going to focus on invertebrates. It will be called: 'The Invertebrates - Best in Show'. This will help us to utilise all the facts that we have learnt during this science topic about classification.

Put the children into groups of three. Assign each group a different example of an invertebrate (choose a selection from the groups: Molluscs, Annelids, Myriapods, Insects, Crustaceans, Arachnids) that the children are familiar with from completing the topic. Examples might include: Garden Snail, Earthworm, Brown Centipede, Ladybug, Shore Crab, Garden Spider.

Say: In your group of three, you have been assigned an invertebrate. I would like you to imagine your invertebrate has won the show, and you will need to create a voiceover to be delivered by the commentator which describes the winning invertebrate's characteristics and features. This means the commentator will need to include all the information about the animal that we have used to classify it during our science topic .

Say: All three of you in your group will write the script together. When you perform your commentary, two of you will read the commentary and one of you will become the invertebrate for us to watch. The invertebrate will have to think about how to hold their bodies and how to move whilst the words are being read.

Show the children the video linked at the top of this resource or model the script below to give the children an idea of what to include, asking one of the children to volunteer to be the prawn.

When the children have written and practised their scripts, they can perform them for the class.

What the Role Play might look like...

Child A (Commentator): Good evening viewers. The time has come to announce the animal that is Best in Show this year.

Child B (Commentator): That is correct. It is an invertebrate for the first time ever.

Child A (Commentator): Yes. An amazing outcome. Without further ado, the winner is .... The Freshwater Prawn.

Child C (The Freshwater Prawn) appears, looking proud.

Child B (Commentator): Yes - a freshwater prawn which is classified as a Crustacean I believe.

Child A (Commentator): That is correct.

Child B (Commentator): Why is that so?

Child A (Commentator): It is because it has two clear body parts: a head and an abdomen.

Child C (The Freshwater Prawn) points to its head and abdomen.

Child B (Commentator): Is that it?

Child A (Commentator): No, it also has an amazing outer shell to protect the soft parts on the inside.

Child B (Commentator): That is superb and what a fabulous shell it is - almost translucent. That means it must be quite young.

Child C (The Freshwater Prawn) taps its amazing strong 'body casing'.

Child A (Commentator): As a crustacean it also has a segmented body and jointed legs - it acts like a suit of armour to protect it and yet still allow it to move and survive.

Child C (The Freshwater Prawn) makes jointed movements.

Child B (Commentator): And finally this magnificent creature has TWO pairs of antennae.

Child A (Commentator): Two pairs? What are they for?

Child B (Commentator): One pair is for sensing food and the other pair is for navigating its way through the watery world in which it lives.

Child C (The Freshwater Prawn) waves its two arms above its head to be the pair of long antenna.

Child A (Commentator): That is amazing. The Freshwater Prawn! - a crustacean and a very deserving winner of the Invertebrate Best In Show Competition.

Child C (The Freshwater Prawn) takes a bow.