



Animal Families

Science
CENTRE 1986

20 11-minute programs for grades 3-5
Unrestricted Use for Educational Purposes
NTTI Plans Available

This series presents beautiful portrayals of wildlife. Each program offers clear and informative narration and the camera captures unique and colorful footage. The programs discuss natural habitats, life cycles, eating habits, and much more.

101 The Praying Mantis

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

The program follows the complete life cycle of the praying mantis, one of nature's most valued insect population controllers. In the spring, praying mantis hatch from round nests usually built high in trees. The newborn mantis, closely resembling an eel or fish at first, soon begins changing to look more and more like an adult. The mantis eats many harmful insects such as grasshoppers and caterpillars.

102 The Monkey

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

The family structures, basic anatomy, feeding habits, and natural habitats of monkeys are examined in this program about one of the most intelligent animals in nature. Monkeys spend most of their time in trees to avoid confrontations with their enemies. Using their hands much like humans, monkeys are able to eat fruit nuts, vegetables, insects, and even use their fingers to remove fleas from their hair.

103 The Crayfish

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

Crayfish (sometimes called crawfish) look nothing like fish and are closely related to lobsters, although much smaller. Both have hard shells covering a soft body (exoskeleton), two great claws or pinchers, and eight legs for walking. A mother crayfish carries

her eggs outside her body in clusters, on her underside, just ahead of her tail. Crayfish are one of a few species of water animals who remain close to their parent after birth.

104 The Chicken

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

This program accompanies several young chickens as they hatch from their shells and begin their curious explorations of their world ... a small farm. Viewers are able to learn how a mother hen treats her young offspring as they learn how to walk, how to eat, and how to use their very limited flying capacities. In addition, the program explains the basic life cycle of the chicken.

105 The Swan

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

With their long necks and snowy white feathers, swans are probably the most graceful birds in nature. The camera catches a flock of swans as they feed and frolic in their winter home. . . a fresh water lake. Cygnets (young swans) with their gray feathers mingle among pens (mother swans) and cobs (father swans). The program explains the life cycle of swans and includes remarkable footage of swans in flight.

106 The Frog

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

This program documents the complete life cycle of a frog. From

egg to tadpole and beyond, viewers witness the complete development of an adult frog. Viewers learn why frogs are referred to as amphibians, and how frogs are able to produce a croaking sound, their call during mating season.

107 The Dragonfly

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

This program follows the entire life cycle of the insect family's most skilled flyer—the dragonfly. The dragonfly begins its life as a water insect. At this point in its life, the young dragonfly has no wings and uses gills to breathe, much like a fish. After living underwater for one to five years, the nymphs shed their old skin and become adult dragonflies. Dragonflies are excellent flyers, moving through the air as fast as 60 miles per hour.

108 The Swallowtail Butterfly

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

From a tiny egg, a caterpillar comes into the world. At this stage in its development, the caterpillar does little more than eat, molt a few times, and grow very quickly. In order to defend itself against birds of prey and other enemies, the caterpillar gives off a disagreeable scent. During its next stage, known as the chrysalis, the caterpillar undergoes metamorphosis until finally, an adult swallow-tail butterfly emerges.

109 Cattle

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

This program explains the basic life cycle of cattle and shows how female cattle, or cows, supply us with most of the milk we drink. The program shows the birth of a calf and describes the processes that farmers use to gather milk. The program also details the four-stomach digestion system of the cow.

110 The Horse

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

Viewers watch several horses on a ranch as a narrator describes the life cycle, eating habits, and behavior of a typical horse. Newborn horses are called foals until the January following their birth when they become known as yearlings. As yearlings grow a little older, young male horses are called colts, and young female horses are called fillies. After three or four years, the males are called stallions, the females are called mares.

111 The Swallow

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

This program observes a swallow family nesting in the rafters of a barn. An assortment of mud, clay, straw, sticks, and stones make up the cozy nest. The mother settles in and sits patiently on her five eggs, leaving only to find food. After the chicks hatch, the camera follows their early development as both mother and father take turns nourishing them, preparing them for the day when they will take their first flight.

112 The Wasp

Science: 3.4,4.5,5.5

Like all insects, a wasp has six legs and three body parts. It also has four very thin wings. This program shows how worker wasps build their hives, tend to the colony's nursery, and protect the hive. In addition, the program outlines the life cycles of a worker wasp ... from egg to grub, through metamorphosis and, finally, adult status.

113 The Firefly

Science: 3.4,4.5,5.5

Have you ever wondered why a firefly's tail gives off that mysterious glow? This program explains the amazing phenomenon of the firefly's tail. Viewers see how a firefly develops ... from an egg laid in a shallow stream, to larva, to pupa,

and, finally, to an adult firefly.

114 The Turtle

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

Watching a female sea turtle creating her nest, the word 'perseverance' comes to mind. Sea turtle eggs are laid during the summer months when mother turtles, exhausted after swimming miles in the open sea, arrive on a beach and without resting, begin digging large holes for their nests. There, they will each lay dozens of eggs, and before heading back to sea, cover the nest with sand to ward off predators. Viewers witness the mad scramble of baby turtles running toward the sea after they hatch.

115 The Octopus

Science: 3.4,4.5, 5.5

This program explains the anatomy, eating habits, and general life cycle of the octopus. This creature gets its name from Greek words that mean "eight feet." Like other fish, they breathe with gills. Powerful suction cups under each tentacle enable an octopus to climb, and to grab food ... fish, crabs, and lobsters. An octopus mother lays her eggs in clusters, often producing hundreds. Once they are born, baby octopuses immediately leave their mother and begin life on their own.

115 The Cicada

Science: 3.4,4.5, 5.5

At times, cicadas are called locusts. Though they're not true locusts, both cicadas and locusts are considered to be pests. Cicadas bore small holes into tree branches, often harming the tree. Why do they engage in such destructive behavior? The holes are actually nests wherein mother cicadas lay eggs. In addition to showing and explaining the anti-social behavior of cicadas, this program describes the life cycle of a typical cicada. Unlike many other insects who live for only days or a few months, the cicada often lives for years.

116 The Ladybird Beetle

Science: 3.4,4.5, 5.5- The "ladybug," officially known as the ladybird beetle, has always fascinated children with its bright orange color and harmless nature. Viewers see a ladybug laying her tiny eggs and follow the babies, or 'grubs,' leaving

the eggs. Both grubs and adult ladybugs feed on aphids, tiny insects that are very harmful for plants.

117 The Crab

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

Like lobster and shrimp, crabs are crustaceans—animals covered by a hard crust or shell. This program teaches viewers all about the feeding habits, natural habitats, male and female anatomy, natural predators, and behavior patterns of crabs.

119 The Spider

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

Have you ever wanted a ringside seat to watch a spider spin its web? This program thrills viewers with its close-up photography of a spider doing just that. The program explains how a spider makes its web using silky, sticky liquid produced from its spinnerets. Though they look quite fragile, the web's silky threads are incredibly strong for their size. The program shows how a spider catches its prey, and explains the differences between insects and spiders.

120 The Pig

Science: 3.4, 4.5, 5.5

This program shows the eating habits, basic anatomy, and playfulness of young and adult pigs. Under the watchful eyes of a protective mother, viewers observe little piglets feeding, frolicking and nuzzling each other with their snouts. Pigs eat just about anything but are highly intelligent, social animals.