

An Animalistic Relationship

The Psychology Behind Human-Animal Interactions



QUEST 7 PSYCHOLOGY

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS CURRICULUM

Do you ever wonder about pet and human relationships? How did humans and animals get so close in the first place? What's the driving force of having a furry companion? In this Quest, we will explore the relationships between show animals and their owners at the State Fair of Texas.



During this Live @ the Fair Quest, you will:

- ★ Explore current Psychological information on human-animal relationships
- ★ Compose your own related Psychology question
- ★ Observe and document the human-animal relationships at the Fair
- ★ Formulate a written response to the writing prompt using information you gathered at the State Fair of Texas, and then design a multimedia presentation.
- ★ Create bodypaint artwork inspired by your observations at the Fair.



Standards

- ★ Art TEKS: Art I: 1A, 1B, 2F, 4A; Art II: 1A, 2D
- ★ ELAR TEKS: EL(15)(D), EL(16)(A), EL(25)
- ★ Career Development TEKS: PS.2B
- ★ Psychology TEKS: 2(C), 14(D)



Source: <http://dogsaholic.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Dog-and-woman.jpg>

Before You Go – 15 min prep time, 45 teaching time

- ★ Discuss the standards of the American Psychological Association (APA) for ethical decision making regarding the collection, storage, and use of psychological data
 - o A helpful website to explore this is: <http://www.apa.org/action/science>
 - o Also, check out: <http://www.apa.org/ethics/code>

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STATE FAIR MAP



- ★ Read and discuss the new study in Psychology called Human-Animal Interaction:
 - o Human-Animal Interaction (HAI) Research: <https://www.waltham.com/waltham-research/hai-research>
 - o Human-Animal Interaction, Section 13 of Division 17: <http://www.apa-hai.org/human-animal-interaction>
 - o Society of Counseling Psychology: <http://www.div17.org/sections/human-animal-interaction>
- ★ You have the opportunity to explore Human-Animal Interaction at the State Fair of Texas by analyzing and documenting the relationships of livestock/animals and humans at the Fair (using the APA standards).
- ★ Before going to the Fair, think of a question that relates to HAI that you can research and document at the Fair.



Invitation

- ★ Please join us at the State Fair to continue your lesson in HAI! You may bring the listed materials and follow the route, and perform the tasks below at the State Fair of Texas!



Plan Your Route

- ★ Make your way to the Woofus, behind the Cotton Bowl. Gaze at him and say hello.
- ★ Tour Cattle Barn No. 2, the Livestock Judging Pavilion and Cattle Barn No. 1.
- ★ Then cross the road and tour the Horse Barn and the Swine Barn.
- ★ Stop at the Milking Demo off MLK Blvd and observe the Ranch Arena.
- ★ Head down Nimitz Dr. and stop at the Pan Am Arena.



Optional Materials to Bring

- ★ Your question that you wrote in class, that relates to Human-Animal Interaction
- ★ Writing utensil and notebook
- OR
- ★ Electronic device to record notes

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While You're There

The objective of your visit is to use APA standards to gather research on Human-Animal Interaction at the Livestock Barns of the State Fair of Texas and make a conclusion based on the information you gather.

★**AN ANIMALISTIC RELATIONSHIP:** While navigating through the Livestock Area, observe and document the relationships between the animals and humans. Your question from class can guide your research.

- o You should plan to see at least one show during your visit in either the Ranch Arena or the Pan Am Arena.
- o It is important that you notice and write down people's behaviors toward the animals and the animals' behavior toward the people.
 - ☐ How do the owners/trainers talk to the animals? Nicely? Meanly?
 - ☐ Are the animals receptive or apprehensive of their affections? How can you tell?
 - ☐ Are the owners/trainers gentle with the animals? How?
 - ☐ What facial expressions do you notice from the humans toward the animals?
 - ☐ Do you notice satisfaction in the human when the animal does something he/she likes? How can you tell?

★**IMITATION IS THE HIGHEST FORM OF FLATTERY (ART PORTION):**

As you make your way through the Fair and take note of all the wonderful human/animal interactions, find which animal you connect most with.

- o If possible, take some photos of this animal, or, if a camera is not available, create some sketches to use for your project.
- o You'll use this back in art class, so save your work!!

★**PHOTO OP (ENGLISH PORTION):** During your English project, you'll need pictures!

- o Make sure you get permission before taking any human's photo.
- o You will need:
 - ☐ Three pictures of the animals that you observed
 - ☐ Three pictures of the humans you observed
 - ☐ Three pictures of the human/animal interactions you observed



After the Fair - 45 min project

When you return to class following your State Fair visit, you will respond to the following writing prompt:

- ★Based on your guiding question you brought with you on your visit to the State Fair of Texas, what was your conclusion?
- ★You should include the following in your writing:
 - o An introduction, body, and conclusion
 - o Standard grammar in paragraph form
 - o Three examples you noted from your visit at the Fair
 - o A reasonable explanation that incorporates APA standards for ethical decision making regarding the collection, storage, and use of psychological data
 - o At least two sources cited in APA format

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ART PORTION

Before You Go

Is it often said that imitation is the highest form of flattery, so how could we go about imitating our furry friends that we love so much?

- ★ How about painting ourselves to imitate them? This is a serious art form that many artists practice today.
 - It's called body painting, and often, people are transformed into animals using only paint and imagination!
 - Check out this link to see some amazing examples: <http://www.demilked.com/animal-body-art-painting/>

While You're There

See the main portion of the Quest for instructions.

When You Return

Think back to the link that you looked at before heading to the Fair and the wonderful examples of animal body art. Now, you are going to create your own!

- ★ If you can't talk one of your friends into letting you cover them in paint (which is completely understandable), just use your own hand/arm/leg.
 - It might be helpful to Google some images of your chosen animal in addition to your own photos/sketches.
 - You could choose to recreate just one area of the animal, or try and replicate the entire body. This is completely up to you.
 - Make sure to use **WASHABLE** paint, such as professional body paint, or even acrylic would be fine.
 - For this work, it is extremely important to focus on detail.
- ★ Present your art to the class, and see if they can guess what animal you have chosen to recreate!
 - Talk about why you chose this animal and how you feel you connect with it.

Source: <http://www.demilked.com/animal-body-art-painting/>



ENGLISH PORTION

Once you have finished writing, you will present your findings. Use Prezi and include:

1. The introduction and conclusion you used in your writing (creatively presented)
2. All your photos from the instructions in the main portion of the Quest
3. Explanation of the three human/animal interactions you observed
4. Your APA citations