

## **At the Animal Clean-Plate Club classroom activities**

For use with “At the Animal Clean-Plate Club” ASK, May/June 2015, pages 6-13

### **Animals and Habitat**

What does an animal’s habitat have to do with its diet?

What do these words mean?

Omnivore

Herbivore

Carnivore

Scientists can tell what an animal eats by looking at its teeth. How do they know?

Why might an animal be a picky eater?

Why might it be good for an animal to eat whatever it can find?

### **Activity**

**Objective:** For students to see what kinds of food an animal prefers to eat.

**Materials:**

classroom pet (if available, this can also be sent home as an activity for kids to do with their own pets)

different types of food, such as carrot, nut, berry, bread, cut into pieces about the same size (will depend on the type of pet; be sure the items selected will not harm the pet)

**Procedure:**

1. Have one person hold the pet while a second person sets out the different food options in a row. If the animal is small (e.g., hamster-sized), set them about one foot away from the animal; if larger (e.g., dog-sized), set them three or four feet away. Be sure all food pieces are the same distance from the animal.
2. Let the animal go.
3. Which food does it go to first?
4. Does it sniff them all before deciding which one to eat?
5. Are there any foods that it refuses to eat?