

Shape Poems

OBJECTIVE

Students will use familiar and new adjectives and verbs to express their impression about selected endangered species.

MATERIALS

- enlarged copies of page 17 (130%)
- plain paper
- colored construction paper
- scissors
- pens and pencils
- crayons



ACTION

1. Before class, use the enlarged pictures to make tracing shapes of the animals. Use the turtle tracing shape to make one paper turtle. Write on the turtle: *Sea turtles are shelled, green, and big. Sea turtles crawl, swim, and dive. Sea turtles make me feel like laughing.* Also write these sentences on the board.
2. Begin activity with a class discussion on verbs and adjectives. Verbs are words that name an action (run, walk, sit) while adjectives describe a noun (big rock, fast car, red flower). Ask students for some examples of verbs and adjectives.
3. List the animal tracing shapes on the board (blue whale, manatee, penguin, sea turtle, monk seal). Beside each name write *verb* and *adjective*.
4. Use the following list to help students brainstorm words for each list.
 - blue whale:** swim, blow, dive; big, smooth, strong.
 - manatee:** float, swim, surface; fat, flippered, whiskered.
 - penguin:** waddle, splash, slide; black, feathered, sleek.
5. Students begin their shape poem by using the words on the board. Follow the sea turtle example and place three adjectives in the first sentence, three verbs in the second, and a "feelings" statement in the third.
6. Distribute plain paper and pens or pencils and have students begin working on their poems. Have students help each other edit and correct spelling mistakes.
7. When students complete their poem, have them choose a piece of construction paper and their animal shape to trace. After they trace and cut out the animal shape, have students write the poem inside the animal. They can use crayons to add detail.
8. Post the students' finished poems around the room. Add a new dimension to your classroom by using yarn to hang some or all of the poems from the ceiling.

