

Teacher's Guide

THE ANIMAL MOVIE

16mm Color
Screening Time: 9 minutes 47 seconds



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Copies of this guide are available
for teacher use.
Please contact your nearest
National Film Board office.

Concepts

Animals move in a variety of ways
Skeletal and muscular structure
determines style of movement
Man's ability to move is extended
through his technology

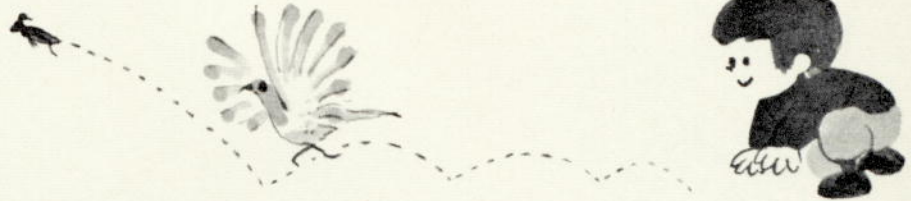
Correlation

Science: Animal adaptation and
movement
Social Studies: Man's adaptation to
and control of environment
Health: Bones and muscles

The film illustrates, in whimsical, semi-story form, one of the primary assets of living things—their ability to move. Most animals move in order to obtain food, to escape predators, or to seek out new environments. A child can walk, run, or hop but he cannot duplicate many of the highly specialized animal movements. A monkey swings from branch to branch with great agility to escape his enemies. A horse can gallop at great speed. A snake crawls by using contractions of the muscles attached to its scales—a movement no child could duplicate. Birds soar through the sky using their wings to push backwards against the air; and a fish swims by pushing with its tail against the water.

Most animals move to get food or escape enemies, but some, like the porpoise with its well-developed brain, may swim for play and pleasure. Man, too, moves for fun. His dream has ever been to imitate the movements of animals—to swim like a fish or to fly like a bird. Eventually his superior brain enabled him to invent machines that could reproduce his surroundings, and today Man has vehicles that can carry his environment with him—under the water, through the air, and out into space.

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Classroom Activities

- 1 Ask children to consider their own skeletons and muscles to see how they work; flex arms to discover how muscles work by contracting and pulling on bones.
- 2 Visit a museum and compare different skeletons; note Man's great skull-case.
- 3 Discuss how Man's great intellect has enabled him to evolve by escaping his environment.
- 4 Discuss Man's early attempts to build flying machines, balloons, and so on. Look up the story of the Wright Brothers.
- 5 Examine the special ways in which worms, a caterpillar (on a leaf), a spider (in a jar), a shrimp, and other small animals move.

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