Animal of the day for kids: one new animal each morning

Peabody blog · Science · updated 2026-10-30

Animal of the day for kids: Peabody's Animals page picks one animal a day, the same for everyone, with a breakfast-table routine and I've-met-this-one stamps.

Peabody's Animals page picks one animal of the day, the same animal for every child, and it changes at midnight in Denver (Mountain time). Under the animal's name you'll find a one-line description, and three buttons: Meet it, Compare it and Hear it. That's small enough to fit beside a bowl of cereal, and this post is how I'd use it.

How the animal is chosen

The day's number walks through a fixed shuffle of all the animals on Peabody, so every animal comes round once before any comes round twice. With 100 animals on the page now, that's 100 days before a repeat. Nobody picks it, and nothing about your child changes it. If a friend or a classmate opens the page the same day, they see the same animal.

The Animals page is rebuilt about once an hour, so after midnight in Denver the new animal can take a little while to appear.

The breakfast-table routine

1. Read it. Tap Hear it, or read the one-line description aloud. Each animal has one in about twelve words.
2. Guess first. Before opening the page, ask: does it eat plants, meat or bugs? Where does it live? What kind of animal is it? Each animal page ends with three questions about it, as three-box choices, and the answer appears after you tap.
3. Find one number. The page shows length, height, weight, top speed and lifespan where Peabody has a checked number. Choose one, read where it came from, and say it out loud.
4. Compare it. Tap Compare it to open Compare Two, choose the day's animal and a second one, and ask who's bigger before the picture appears.
5. Stamp it. Each animal page has an "I've met this one" button. The Animals page then says "You've met 12 of 100 animals" (or whatever your count is).

The stamps stay on your device. Nothing is sent anywhere, so clearing your browser or switching to another device starts a fresh collection. A tap on the button again takes the stamp off.

Four mornings, with questions to ask

These are four animals from the 100, with one real number each and a question to go with it. Each number names its source.

- If it's...: Aldabra giant tortoise · Read this: "A giant island tortoise that can live for a very long time." · A number: lives more than 100 years (Smithsonian's National Zoo) · Ask this: Who's the oldest person you know?
- If it's...: Ruby-throated hummingbird · Read this: "A tiny bird whose wings beat so fast they hum." · A number: weighs 3 to 3.5 g, about a tenth of an ounce (US Fish and Wildlife Service) · Ask this: Where does it spend the winter?
- If it's...: Pronghorn · Read this: "The fastest land animal in North America, and not a real antelope." · A number: top speed 88.5 km/h, 55 mph, running (National Park Service) · Ask this: How fast do you think you can run?
- If it's...: Monarch butterfly · Read this: "An orange butterfly that flies all the way to Mexico for winter." · A number: wingspan 7 to 10 cm, 2.8 to 3.9 in (US Fish and Wildlife Service) · Ask this: How could it make a trip no single butterfly finishes?

The hummingbird question has an answer on its page: the ruby-throated hummingbird spends winter in Mexico and Central America. The monarch's page has a clue too: it takes several generations to make the round trip.

Make it stretch

Some mornings go further. Compare a day's animal with a look-alike in Compare Two, try the animal quizzes, or print its fact card and stick it on the fridge. If it's an animal that lives near you, look out of the window; the backyard guide says who to look for.

In a classroom

Because every child gets the same animal, a class can share it at morning meeting. One child reads the one-line description, another reads a number and says who it came from, and a third guesses what kind of animal it is. Every number names its source, so "who says?" always has an answer.

Questions grown-ups ask

Does everyone see the same animal?

Yes. It's picked from the date in Denver, not from the child, the device or the account. A class can open the page together and see the same animal.

Will we see the same animal again soon?

Not until every animal has had a turn. If Peabody adds animals, the order shifts, but the page still shows only the one for today.

Does Peabody keep my child's stamps?

No. They're saved in your browser on your device, and nothing is sent anywhere. The trade-off is that they don't follow your child to another device.

Peabody (peabody.kids) is free through the end of 2026, with no ads. When the animal's done for the day, the library has stories for the rest of the morning.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/animal-of-the-day-for-kids