

For Creative Minds

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Deductive Reasoning

Deductive reasoning is the term for answering a question by using facts and logic. Detective duck uses commonly known facts and logic to prove that some of the animals could not be the thief. For example: Detective Duck observes that the window the thief escaped through is small. He also knows that Kangaroo is much larger than the window. So he can logically prove that Kangaroo is not the thief!

You can be a detective too! Can you answer these questions and explain how you know the answers? Deductive reasoning is being able to explain why something is true by using facts. What are the facts that you used to answer the questions?

- If you are eating breakfast, what time of day do you think it is? Why?
- If it's dark and you turn on a light to see, is it day or night? Why?
- If you wake up to go to the bathroom and then go back to sleep, is it day or night? Why?
- If people are wearing raincoats and have wet umbrellas, what's the weather? Why?
- If you find a feather, did it come from a bird, mammal, or reptile? Why?
- If a wet towel is left in the girl's locker room, do you think a boy or girl left it? Why?
- If a cookie is missing and your little brother has cookie crumbs on his shirt, who do you think took the cookie? Why?
- If your little sister has a milk moustache, what do you think she was just drinking? Why?
- If you have air conditioning on in the house, do you think it is summer or winter? Why?
- If you are wearing a bathing suit and going to the beach to swim, what time of year is it? Why?
- If it is the last day of school for the year, what month is it? Why?



Compare and Contrast the Animals



Compare and contrast the animal suspects:

All birds have feathers. Which animals are birds?

Some animals are active at night and sleep during the day (nocturnal). Which animal is nocturnal?

Which animals fly, hop, and walk to move from one place to another?

Which animals have four legs?

Which animals use their front legs as arms and hands?

Which animal has a trunk?

Which animal has antlers?

Which animals have tails?

Which animals are big and which are little?

Which animals could you find on a farm?

Which animals might live in your backyard?

Which animals would you see in a zoo?



Birds: rooster and swan. **Nocturnal:** raccoon **Move:** Fly: rooster and swan; hop: kangaroo; walk: all others **Four legs:** cow, elephant, horse, kangaroo (the two front legs are short and are only used when moving slowly and eating or as arms), monkeys (like the kangaroo, monkeys use their two front legs for moving and as arms), mouse, pig, raccoon, tiger **Front legs as arms and hands:** kangaroos, monkeys and raccoons **Trunk:** elephant **Antlers:** moose **Tails:** all but shape and length are all different **Big:** cow, elephant, horse, kangaroo, mouse, pig, rooster **Backyard:** mouse, raccoon, and maybe mouse depending on where you live **Zoo:** elephant, kangaroo, monkey, mouse, tiger