Part 1 — Animals

We’re going to a fair that is located near a town called — what else? — Fairfield! People come from all around to go to this particular fair, because it has lots of fun things to see and do.

We buy our tickets from a woman sitting in a little red booth. Then we pass through a gate decorated with balloons and blinking lights, and here we are — inside the fair! There are people everywhere. We can hear kids on rides, shouting and screaming. We smell corn dogs and cotton candy and popcorn. It’s a warm day and the sun is shining.

We’re anxious to go on the rides, but we decide to start the day by looking at the farm animals. At one end of the fairgrounds, there are several long, wooden barns with doors that are open. That’s where all the animals are kept. Each barn has a different sign. One says “cows,” another “pigs,” and there are signs on other barns for horses, sheep, chickens, pigs, and rabbits.

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We start in the pig barn. The pigs are kept inside square pens that have a thick layer of hay on the floor. There are containers for food and water, and signs on the fence that tell us about the pigs and their owners.

At the end of one aisle, in a pen all by itself, we find the biggest pig we have ever seen. In Activity Number 1, you’ll notice a box with a circle and signs on the fence that tell us about the pig’s head by following my instructions. All set?

Activity Number 1

1. Wow it sure is big! 2. Mmm, it sure is soft! 3. Yikes, it sure is scary! 4. Oh, it sure is loud! 5. Phew, it sure is smelly!

• First, draw two little dark dots inside the circle. Those are the pig’s nostrils.
• The pig is looking directly at you, so you are going to draw it from the front. Go ahead and draw a large circle for the head.
• Make sure the nose is about in the center of the circle, and leave some room above the circle for ears.
• Did you know that pigs have eyes that look like it’s smiling, so beneath its nose, draw a little line that goes up slightly at the corners.
• Now, let’s give the pig two ears. A pig’s ears are actually quite large, and they are shaped something like triangles. They often flop over a little bit.
• Of course, you can’t see all of the pig’s body because the head takes up most of the space, but go ahead and draw as much of the body as you can.

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We make our way through each of the barns, walking on a thick, squishy layer of hay as we go. It sure smells like animals in here!

Each drawing in Activity Number 2 has something to do with one of the animals we see. I’m going to say the names of the animals. Listen to them first without marking on your paper. Then I’ll say them again, giving each one a number. Your job will be to match the number with the drawing that you think best fits each animal.

There is one place near the barns where children may pet some of the animals. Many children from the city have never seen farm animals up close before, and they seem really excited! We stop for a moment and consider. The judge REALLY considers only three of them. Draw a line through the thing you think the judge does NOT consider when he sees it.

Activity Number 2

1. horse 2. sheep 3. rabbit 4. pig 5. cow 6. horse

All right, now here are the animals again, this time with numbers. Put the number below the drawing that you think matches the animal. 1. chicken 2. sheep 3. rabbit 4. pig 5. cow 6. horse.

Activity Number 3

In Activity Number 3, you’ll find a list of some of the animals we see at the fair. You’ll also notice four descriptions. Draw a line connecting each description with the animal it best fits. Use each animal and each description only once.

Activity Number 4

Next to the cow barn, there’s a fenced-in area. People are sitting in bleachers waiting for something to happen. We sit down, and soon five boys and girls, each leading a cow by a rope, enter the fenced-in area. A man with a notebook walks to the middle of the area. Then, the kids lead their cows in a circle around the man. The man looks at each cow and makes notes in a book.

This is a cow-judging contest, and the man in the middle is a judge. After the cows have gone around several times, the judge hands ribbons to the people he thinks have the best cows.

In Activity Number 4, you’ll find a list of things the judge COULD consider. The judge REALLY considers only three of them. Draw a line through the thing you think the judge does NOT consider when he selects a winner.

Activity Number 5

There are many different kinds of pigs. Some are big, round, and fat. Some are little bitty, playing in the hay, making happy little snorts and coos. Some are pinkish, some are black and white, and some are brown.

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Activity Number 1

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