



# Alpaca and People

## Virtual Classroom Extension

### **Objective**

This activity is designed to help your at-home student(s) recognize themselves as scientists and think critically about problem-solving. The goal is to help students understand the relationship between humans and domestic animals. As with all lessons provided, please feel free to adapt them according to your students' abilities. Take these ideas, make them your own and your at home students will have a greater chance at success.

### **Materials**

Paper, writing utensil, crayons or markers

### **Procedures**

1. Discuss the video about the Alpaca at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo with your at home student(s). What was their favorite part of the video? What did they learn from the video? What do they imagine the alpaca would feel like?
2. Discuss domestication with your at home student. Explain that domestication is the process of a species being changed so that they can better fill a need of people. This process occurs using selective breeding and takes place over the course of many generations. If an animal or plant has a trait that people find desirable, they will breed individuals of that species together so that the offspring will also have that trait. This is why we have different dog breeds. All dogs are the same species, but they have been bred for specific traits. For instance, Collies are really good at herding animals, and hounds have a great sense of smell that is used for tracking.
  - a. Questions to ask your students: Do you have a dog or know someone who has a dog? What type of dog is it? What do you think that dog would be good at? What characteristics would you want to have in a pet?
3. Explain that dogs are not the only species that have been domesticated by people. Ask students to think about other species that people have domesticated. What do people use those species for? Are there any plants that have been domesticated by people? What types of plants and what are they used for?
  - a. If your student cannot think of any ideas, you may suggest they think about farm animals. Some ideas may be chickens, cows, sheep, goats, turkeys, ducks, horses, and donkeys.
  - b. Plants might include corn, apples, bananas, cotton, sugar, and roses.

- c. Some ideas of what people use domestic animals for include companionship, guarding property or livestock, transportation, pulling carts or carrying things, herding other domestic animals, food, wool and fur for clothing, pest control, and hunting.
- 4. Let's think again about the alpaca that we saw in the video. Why do you think people domesticated alpaca? What are benefits that people get from alpaca? What are ways alpaca might benefit from living with people?
- 5. Help your student use the internet to look up information about alpaca.
- 6. Using the information that you found, have your students find a creative way to show the relationship between alpaca and people. They can write a poem, a short story, or draw a picture that shows ways humans and alpaca benefit from each other.

**Ohio's Learning Standards**

<b>Science Content Standards</b>
Grade K Life Science Topic: Physical and Behavioral Traits of Living Things <b>K.LS.1:</b> Living things have specific characteristics and traits.
Grade 1 Life Science Topic: Basic Needs of Living Things <b>1.LS.2:</b> Living things survive only in environments that meet their needs.
Grade 3 Life Science Topic: Behavior, Growth and Changes <b>3.LS.2:</b> Individuals of the same kind of organism differ in their inherited traits. These differences give some individuals an advantage in surviving and/or reproducing.