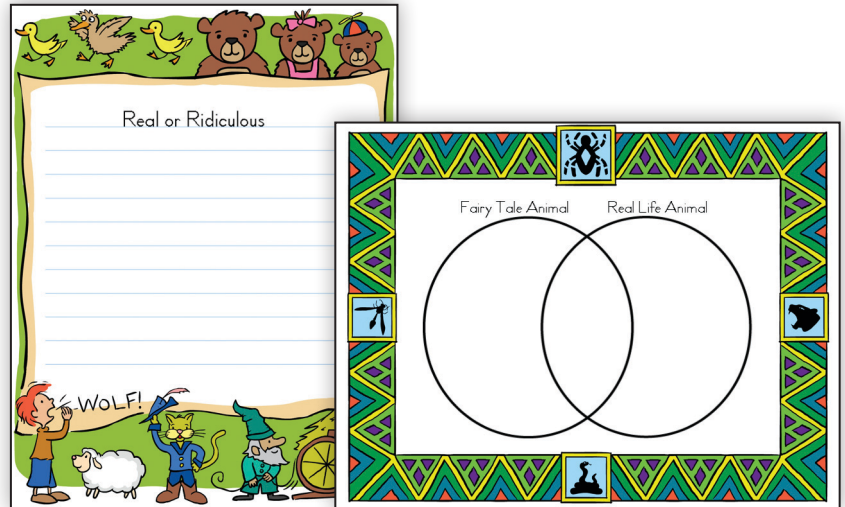


# Fairy Tale Animals: Real or Ridiculous

## Goals

- To examine how animals are portrayed in fairy tales and folktales
- To research real life animals
- To compare real life animals with the way they are portrayed in fairy tales and folktales



**Overview:** Students research real life animals and compare them to the way they are portrayed in fairy tales and folktales. They assume the persona of the animal and explain which they would prefer to be.

## Materials

- Fairy tale(s) or folktale(s) featuring one or more animals
- “Real or Ridiculous Venn” template
- “Real or Ridiculous” template or a design of the student’s choice

## Directions

1. As a class, read a fairy tale or folktale in which animals are featured. Choose an animal and use the “Real or Ridiculous Venn” template to compare and contrast the way the animal is portrayed in the fairy tale with its real life counterpart.
2. Have students refer to the information from the completed Venn diagram, or let them choose another animal to research and compare using the “Real or Ridiculous Venn” template.
3. Ask students to imagine they are the animal and decide whether they would rather be like the real animal or the fairy tale version. Then have them use



### **Directions** *(continued)*

the “Real or Ridiculous” template or designs of their choice to write an essay explaining their preference and the reasons for their choice.

4. Have students play the role of the animals and present their preference and reasons to the class. Have students who are playing the same animal present one after the other. Then ask the class to vote on which version of the animal they would want to be.

### **Stationery Studio Extensions**

- Bind the Venn diagrams and essays in a book called “Real and Ridiculous Animals”.
- Have students identify the habitat described in a fairy tale or folktale and research that habitat. Ask them to compare and contrast the real habitat with the way it is portrayed in the tale.
- Hold a class discussion about how people usually stereotype the animals students have compared.

