

Puzzling digestion

Focus question	How are animal digestion systems similar and different?
Vocabulary	Mouth, esophagus, stomach, rumen, crop, gizzard, small intestine, large intestine, proventriculus, ceca, cloaca, rectum, omasum, reticulum, abomasum

Background

Animals share many characteristics in common, but the animals that make up the majority of livestock animals raised for food production have some specific differences. Those differences determine the feed that each animal requires and what products they supply. In this activity, you will complete an animal from the puzzle pieces you collect, then discuss the similarities and differences.

Materials

- 11 puzzle pieces

Procedure

1. Collect 11 puzzle pieces.
2. Assemble the puzzle pieces to create an animal.
3. If there are missing pieces, trade out the pieces that do not fit for others from the pile of extras. (The puzzle does not have to have exactly 11 pieces.)
4. Once your puzzle is complete, begin to identify the digestive system characteristics that your animal has.
5. Compare to the animals from other groups.
6. Draw a Venn diagram to compare the animals.

Rubric for self-assessment

Skill	Yes	No	Unsure
I completed a model with my group.			
I can identify the structures and functions of an animal's digestive system using the vocabulary given.			
I can identify and describe the organs within the digestive system of an animal and how they interact.			