

## Activity 9: Crazy animals

**Sabrina De Vita – Argentina**

**Age:** 9+  **1 hour** **Large classes?** No **Mixed level?** Yes

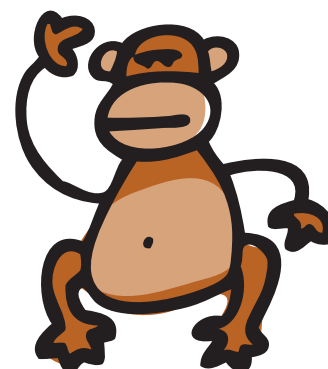
**Materials:** Computer with internet connection, digital pictures of animals.

**Organisation:** Individual, pair and group work.

**Aim:** To describe characteristics of different animals.

**Description:** The children write texts about animals and then record their texts on the Blabberize website.

**Preparation:** You will need digital pictures of all the animals you use for the activity. If you need some pictures of wild animals, try: [www.weforanimals.com/free-pictures/wild-animals/](http://www.weforanimals.com/free-pictures/wild-animals/) or Google images ([www.google.com.ar/imghp?hl=es&tab=wi](http://www.google.com.ar/imghp?hl=es&tab=wi)) It is a good idea to familiarise yourself with the website and how it works before class.



### Procedure

1. Divide the class into groups and assign an animal group to each (or the groups can choose). For example, insects, birds, reptiles and so on.
2. Ask a child to choose an animal from the assigned group. He or she then writes a short text about the animal, in the first person.  
For example:  
Hello! I am a crocodile. I live in the river and sleep a lot. I have a very big mouth and very sharp teeth so that I can catch and eat my dinner! I like sleeping and sleeping and sleeping. Sometimes other animals think I am a log.
3. When the texts are ready, the children take it in turns to upload the pictures and record the texts on Blabberize ([blabberize.com](http://blabberize.com)). This site allows you to upload pictures which you can then make talk by manipulating the mouth on the picture and recording a message. The children should follow the very clear instructions on Blabberize to make their recordings.
4. The children can then share their Blabberize recordings with each other or post them as part of a class blog.
5. Watch the best (funniest!) recordings together as a class.

### Notes

Of course websites can disappear without warning, but Blabberize has been going for quite some time and is a much used resource by teachers.

## Alternatives

- The children can make personal texts about themselves. Instead of uploading pictures of animals to the site, they can upload pictures of themselves instead.
- The children could also take on the roles of important world leaders, cultural icons, scientists in a similar way.

## No resources?

If you do not have a computer, you will not be able to use the websites. However, the children can still choose an animal, write the text and read it to the class. You can encourage them to use 'animal' voices when they read.

If you have paper, pens, and string or wool, the children could also make an animal mask that they can put on while they are reading.

