

Animal Idioms

Match the animal idiom to its meaning.



1. "Kill two birds with one stone."
 2. "Bring home the bacon."
 3. "Take the bull by its horns."
 4. "Flog a dead horse."
 5. "To be a guinea pig."
 6. "Back the wrong horse."
 7. "There are bigger fish to fry."
 8. "Cash cow."
 9. "Don't cry over spilt milk."
 10. "Like a chicken with its head cut off."
 11. "There's more than one way to skin a cat."
- a. Deal with a tough situation in a direct way.
 - b. There are many ways to achieve an outcome.
 - c. Don't dwell on things that can't be changed.
 - d. There are more important things.
 - e. To be the first to try something.
 - f. Something that will make a lot of money.
 - g. Solve two problems with one solution.
 - h. Waste time on a pointless situation.
 - i. To make a living.
 - j. To act in a frantic way.
 - k. Make the wrong decision.

Animal Idioms and Speciesism

Read the tweets below. Do you agree?

 **PETA** ✓
@peta

Words matter, and as our understanding of social justice evolves, our language evolves along with it. Here's how to remove speciesism from your daily conversations.

Stop Using Anti-Animal Language

Instead of:	Say:
"Kill two birds with one stone."	"Feed two birds with one scone."
"Be the guinea pig."	"Be the test tube."
"Beat a dead horse."	"Feed a fed horse."
"Bring home the bacon."	"Bring home the bagels."
"Take the bull by the horns."	"Take the flower by the thorns."

♥ 37.8K 7:23 AM - Dec 5, 2018 ⓘ
💬 56.2K people are talking about this ➤

 **PETA** ✓
@peta

Just as it became unacceptable to use racist, homophobic, or ableist language, phrases that trivialize cruelty to animals will vanish as more people begin to appreciate animals for who they are and start 'bringing home the bagels' instead of the bacon.

8:23 am · 5 Dec 2018 · Twitter Web Client

816 Retweets 3.8K Likes

Who are PETA?

PETA stands for the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. They are an animal rights organisation based in the United States.

Point of View

To identify someone's point of view, consider the words, tone and language they use. Read the passage and then circle the correct answers on the next page.

It has perhaps never been more evident that words carry immense power. People are striving to identify racist, sexist, homophobic, and ableist phrases and eradicate them from our language. Unfortunately, many of us also grew up hearing phrases that condone violence toward animals and perpetuate speciesism, a human-supremacist worldview. Sayings such as "kill two birds with one stone," "beat a dead horse," and "bring home the bacon" all normalise violent acts against some of the most defenceless members of our society. Since PETA released our list of updated, animal-friendly idioms, people have instead been "feeding two birds with one scone" trying not to "feed a fed horse," and "bringing home the bagels"—and we've been seeing this nonviolent language popping up on social media.

PETA, 'Bigger Fish to Free' online article

Animal Idioms and Speciesism

After reading the PETA tweets and 'Bigger Fish to Free' article, circle the correct answers.

1 How do PETA view the use of animal idioms?

- a They don't believe it's funny or useful
- b They think it should only be used online
- c They believe it normalises animal cruelty
- d They think it's offensive to people

2 Which phrase is the best clue to question 1's answer?

- a Words matter
- b Words carry immense power
- c human-supremacist worldview
- d all normalise violent acts

3 Why do PETA compare the use of animal idioms with other issues like racism and sexism?

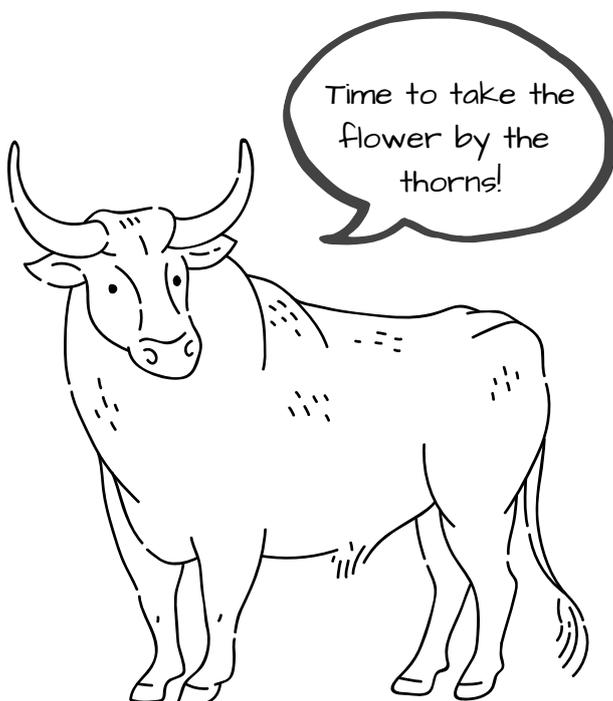
- a They think it's more important
- b They want people to take it just as seriously
- c They are trying to raise many points at once
- d They are saying people are animals too

4 What do PETA's statements say about their standpoint on using animal idioms?

- a They want it to stop completely
- b They want it to vanish over time
- c They want it to only be used in private
- d They want people to use it more

5 Which words are the best clues to question 4's answer?

- a unacceptable, eradicate
- b animal-friendly, appreciate
- c perpetuate, condone
- d striving, evolves



Optional Activity: Debate

Do you agree or disagree with PETA's statements?

Has your opinion changed? How do you feel about using idioms that may be considered sexist or racist? Is speciesism different (why/why not)?

On the back of this page, write down your debate points. Try to predict what your opponent will say and prepare your rebuttal. Think about persuasive words, phrases and speech styles to use. You have two minutes to make your case.

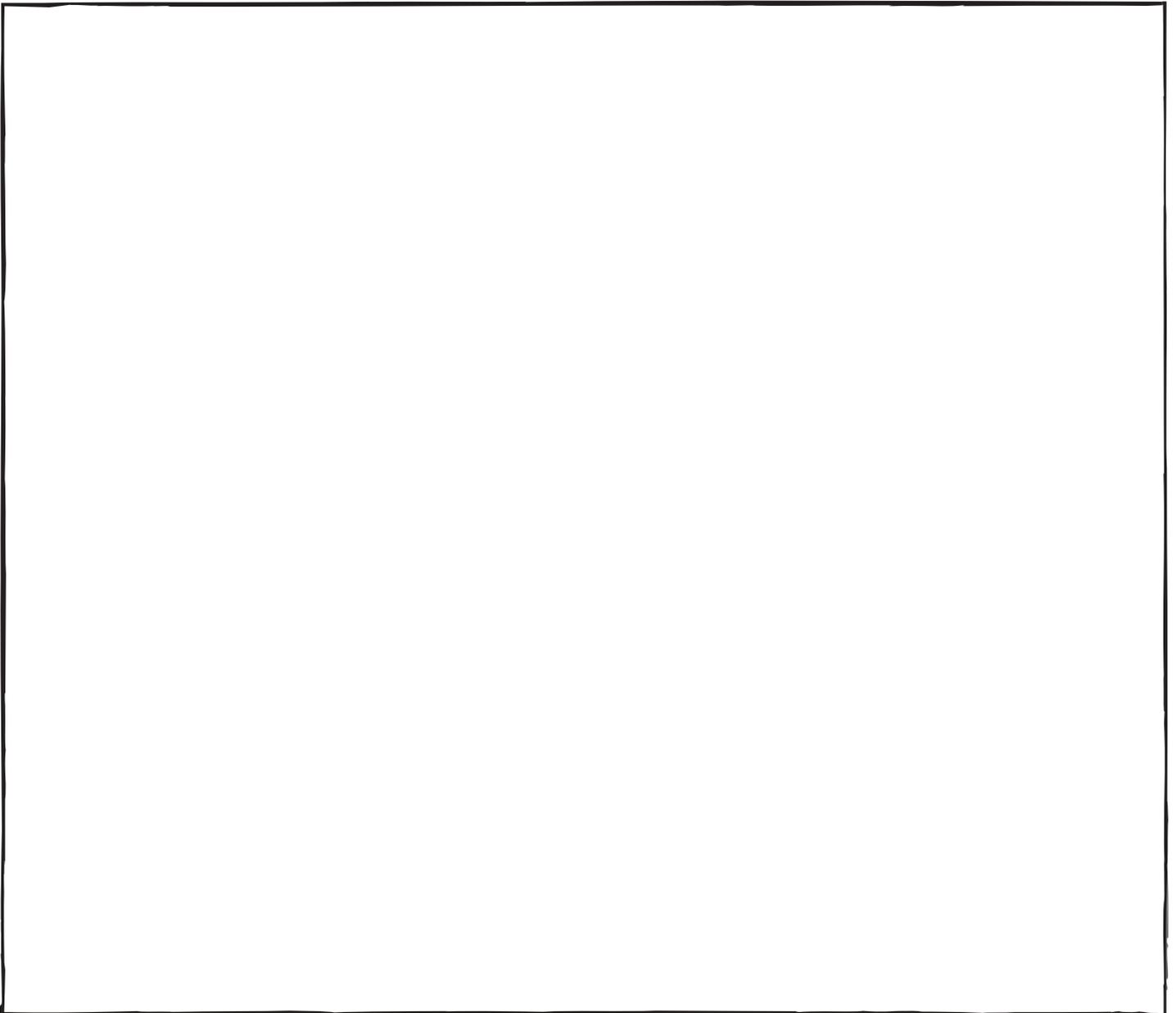
Animal-Free Idioms!

Get creative and come up with your own alternative to a classic animal idiom.

Draw a picture to illustrate it.

Instead of: _____

Say: _____



Student name: _____