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The following lessons were created by **Robin L. McNutt-Garcia**, a teacher participating in a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Teachers entitled Touch the Past: Archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River Region.

Introduction to Garcia's Biology Class

Grade Level 9th and 10th graders

Subjects Biology

Objectives Student will begin to identify the biological classification systems starting with the differences between mammals and humans.

Standards AZ strand 4: Life Science; Concept 4: Biological Evolution PO:5&6

Duration First week of school; 1 class period; to "hook" students' interest into Biology

Materials/Supplies student Lab notebook and pencil
scissors, glue

Vocabulary mammals, bipedal, opposable thumbs, biology, species

Setting the Stage I will start this lesson by having the student open their lab notebooks and answer a "bellwork" question in a quick write format. What biologically makes humans distinct from other living mammals?

Procedure

1. After several minutes students will break into groups and discuss their quick write ideas. Then start a group list to share with the class. They will designate a scribe and a reporter for the group.
2. While groups are working, write 3 headings on the board:
HUMANS OTHER MAMMALS NEW VOCABULARY
3. Next resume a whole class discussion, having each group report out on what they would put under each heading.
4. Finally, give the class guidance as to the correct answers for what goes under what heading and why or fill in anything missing. While completing this, students would be filling this in their lab notebooks.

- Closure** In the lab notebooks, students write their own definitions to the new vocabulary words in student-friendly definitions.
- Evaluation** I would do an exercise called "ticket out" where I would pose the next question: Do you think humans are that different from other mammals? Why or why not?
- Extension** This class will be followed by the continuing to expand the biological classification systems and the degree of relatedness among species.