

The Baby Gazelle & the Baby Topi Antelope
Animal Babies: Born Wild Series

Subject Areas: Science, Life Science, Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: Emma, a newborn gazelle, learns to walk and meets two cousins who will be her companions. Her mother shelters her in a secluded grassland cover until Emma gains skills that will help her survive. When a cheetah attacks, Emma's running skills save her. The baby topi antelope, Bernie, is also born on the African savanna. He gets up by himself and learns to nurse from his mother. Bernie observes two young males confronting one another and learns about leadership in the pack. He suckles from his mother and sleeps in the grassland nursery with the rest of the topi antelope babies.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to identify and describe the physical characteristics of gazelles and topi antelopes (gnus).
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to describe how the parents care for the animal babies.
- Objective 3)** Students will understand the concept of “family” in the animal and the human world.
- Objective 4)** Students will understand that all animals are defenseless when they are born but that they all learn to survive against predators and support themselves by finding their own sources of food.
- Objective 5)** Students will understand that for animals and for humans, learning is part of growth.
- Objective 6)** Students will understand that all babies grow to become adult members of their species.

Pre-Viewing Questions and Activities:

- 1) What do you know about baby gazelles and how they are cared for by their mothers?
- 2) Do gazelles have any predators?
- 3) What is another name for a topi antelope? Describe these animals—what other animals do they resemble?

Vocabulary: Define and discuss the following key terms:

Savanna, gazelle, acquainted, pampered, predators, stalking, cheetah, enemy, prey, topi, agility, turmoil, required to, athletes, complicated, hesitant, defeat, aloof, confronting, agility, dexterity, wrestlers, suckle, graze, glutton, babysitters

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Who looks after baby gazelles?
- 2) Why do mother gazelles keep their babies away from the herd?

New Dimension Media

- 3) What animal is a predator of gazelle herds?
- 4) Describe the habitat of topi antelope.
- 5) Where do baby topi antelopes sleep at night?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Investigate the running speeds of gazelles and topi antelope. How fast can they run? Are they the fastest runners in the animal kingdom?
- 2) Discover the reasons why mother gazelles isolate their babies until the infants are older.
- 3) Write a story about a young male topi antelope that is in constant competition with another young antelope. Why do they fight so often? What reward is there for the winner?
- 4) Investigate the natural predators of gazelles and antelopes.
- 5) On the Internet or in the school media center, find further information about either of these animals. Present the information in an entertaining way to classmates who think there is nothing more to learn about gazelles or antelopes.

FOR INFORMATION, OR TO ORDER CONTACT:

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA

A QUESTAR COMPANY

w w w . n d m q u e s t a r . c o m

680 N. Lake Shore Drive, Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60611

800.288.4456