

Paxton Passes Out!



Empathy and Critical Thinking Skills

Encourage readers to think beyond the original story. They may think about the animals in the story, or they may add additional characters. Have them write or draw a new situation on the farm. Use the Paxton cutout worksheet to paste images onto a collage or create finger puppets. If you prefer team work, have groups work together to act out the scenario.

*Option 1: Create a scenario where another animal helps Paxton.

*Option 2: Create a scenario where Paxton helps another animal. It is important to remember that Paxton has many strengths that allow him contribute in his own way, even if he needs a few accommodations.



Challenge Assumptions

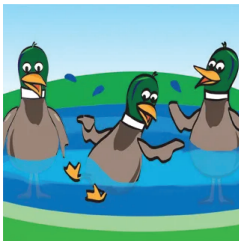
Step 1: Explain what an assumption is. It may go something like this:



*An **assumption** is something that we think is true, but we don't have any proof. We make assumptions when we form an opinion without investigating.*

In Paxton's story, the lady at the market assumed that Paxton was lazy. Assumptions can hurt people. We miss out on a lot of great things by not examining situations further.

Step 2: Encourage kids to think about both sides of every story. Instead of assuming we know about a situation, think of alternatives. What possibilities might there be? Here are examples from Paxton's story:



- *We assume the ducks are mean because they laugh at Paxton. Might there be another explanation?*
- *Why did the piggies squeal so loud? Did they mean to hurt Paxton's ears?*
- *The lady at the market called Mia "a terrible sales donkey." What information might have helped her understand the situation?*

Step 3: Use the "Paxton's New Friends" worksheet. Now that the kids understand what assumptions are, they will have the opportunity to challenge some common assumptions about some well-known animals. Participants will need materials to research each animal. A safe and kid friendly website for research is <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

Participants should find that the assumptions are either not true or have further explanation. For example, skunks are not ALWAYS stinky; they release odor as a defense. While researching, participants should also be able to find at least one interesting fact that they did not already know about the animal.

Participants will see how often things are accepted to be true without proof. The opportunity to research allows them room to form their own opinions. The experience can carry forward with a desire investigate before making assumptions.

What we think we know is not always true. Before Paxton met the farm piggies, he assumed that they were mean. After he got to know the piggies, he learned that they just like to be silly.

Paxton's New Friends

People often make assumptions about animals. Paxton hopes to meet them all very soon. There are some common assumptions about each animal, but we hope that Paxton will get to know and understand each animal better. You can help him by doing a little research. Are there things you "knew" that you are not sure are true? List them here.

People assume that **skunks** are stinky.
Is this true? Is ALWAYS true? Is there a reason?

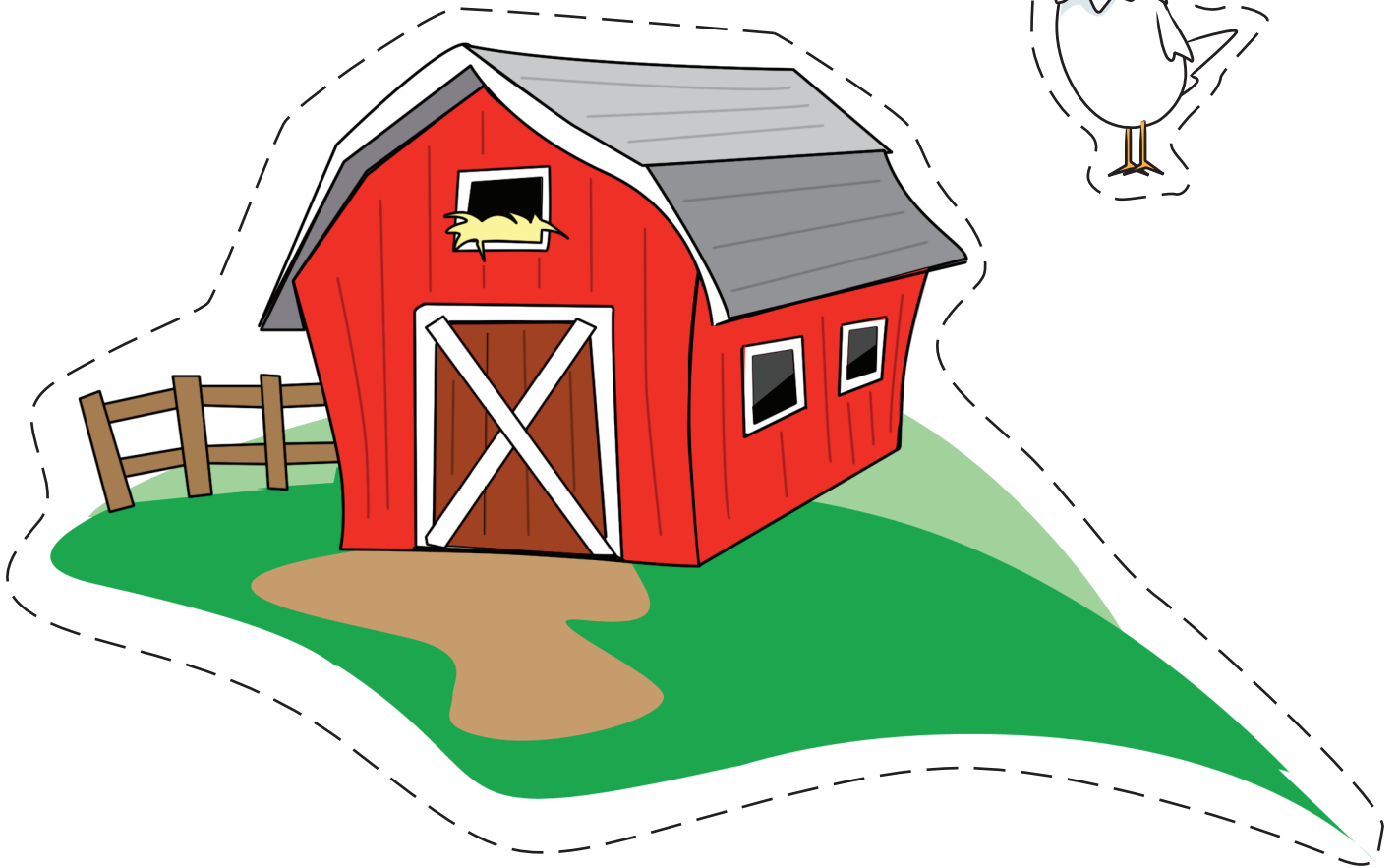
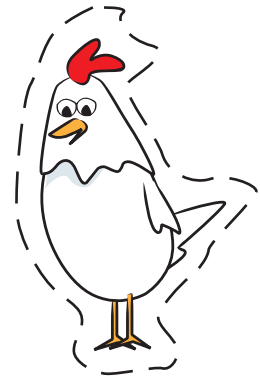
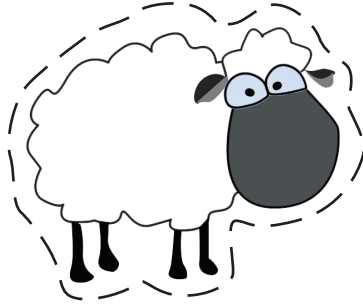
Here is something interesting I learned about skunks:

People assume that **sloths** are lazy.
Is this true? Is ALWAYS true? Is there a reason?

Here is something interesting I learned about sloths:

People assume that **ostriches** bury their heads in the sand.
Is this true? Is ALWAYS true? Is there a reason?

Here is something interesting I learned about ostriches:





What we think we know is not always true. Before Paxton met the farm piggies, he assumed that pigs were dirty. After he got to know the piggies, he learned that they use the mud to cool off rather than to be dirty.

Paxton's New Friends

Parent/Teacher Note: A safe and kid friendly website for research is <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

Some new animals arrived at the farm. Paxton hopes to meet them all very soon. There are some common assumptions about each animal, but we hope that Paxton will get to know and understand each animal better. You can help him by doing a little research. Are these things true? Why? What can you tell Paxton that he might not already know.



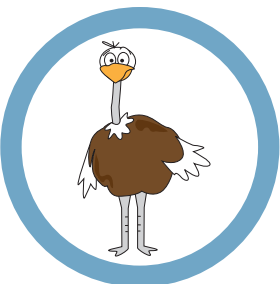
People assume that: **Skunks are stinky.**
Is this true? Is it ALWAYS true? Is there a reason?

Here is something interesting I learned about skunks:



People assume that: **Sloths are lazy.**
Is this true? Is it ALWAYS true? Is there a reason?

Here is something interesting I learned about sloths:



People assume that: **Ostriches bury their heads in the sand.**
Is this true? Is it ALWAYS true? Is there a reason?

Here is something interesting I learned about ostriches:
