

CHAPTER 7

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Let us see few animals and some interesting behaviours, which reflects their intellectual abilities.

It varies from species to species.

Birds build their nests in different ways.

Tailor bird selects three broad leaves one for bottom, two for top and sides.

They also collect threads to make their nest for stitching these three leaves.



Fig. Nesting Birds

Beaver, a mammal, which lives in North America builds dams across water streams.

Beaver cuts big trees by its sharp teeth to put the trees across the stream.

At the centre of this artificial pond beavers construct their home.



Fig. Beaver carrying log

Wasp is an intelligent bee which builds its home keeping in view of its future needs. Wasp builds its hive on the walls by using mud.



Fig. Wasp making nest

Some experiments towards animal intelligence:

Let's See few interesting animal behaviors.

A bird called scrubjay hides its food.

In order to make them confused, you do something that others cannot guess your plans. Not only humans, but there are some other animals also that show the same behaviour.

An experiment proved that a scrub jay had hidden its food in presence of another bird.



Fig. Scrub jay bird

Squirrels too hide their food in a very interesting way.

They dig holes in many places and heap leaves, straw etc., to cover them and in order to misguide them.

In this way, they cheat others to make believe that these holes contain food. In nature it helps in spreading of seeds.



Fig. Squirrels

Dolphins have great logical thinking power. It was proven by Hermon.

Hermon studied four bottle nose Dolphins.

He named them Akkikomoi, Phoenix, Allen and Hippo.



Fig. Dolphins playing

Another behaviour is about an African grey parrot.

Irene Pepperberg bought a parrot and trained it.

Slowly she made it learn more than 100 words. Then she arranged the words in such a way that Alex could frame its own sentences.

Pepperberg showed Alex one yellow bowl and another yellow dish.

The dialogues between them are:

Pepperberg: What is the similarity?

Alex: Colour

Pepperberg: What is the difference?

Alex: Shape



Fig. African Grey parrot

Activity 2:

Select any one of the animals in your surroundings.

Observe how it behaves in the following situations.

1. Name of the animal:
2. Place where it lives
3. How it builds its place:
4. Way of collecting food / prey:
5. External characters:
6. Expressions:
(Happiness, sadness, fear, threat, quarrel, caring self / young ones)
7. Group behaviour