



Kinder Critters Contest



Creative artistic expression is encouraged as Kindergarten students create “Critters” using common items and give the creations a creative name.

Contest Support provided by the University of Texas at Tyler School of Education and Psychology

Awards: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places awarded plus up to 3 Honorable Mention awards

Contest Rules

(Revised August 2018)

1. The contest is open to Kindergarten students only.
2. The project **MUST be completed at school under the direction of the teacher.**
3. Students will create a “Critter” using supplies at school or from home limited to the following types of items: cotton balls, toothpicks, straws, pipe cleaners, paper, construction paper, tissue paper, paper clips, twigs, sticks, acorns, pinecones, fabric, buttons, yarn, ribbon, lunch size paper bags, play dough, modeling clay, thread spools, coffee filters, paper cups, Styrofoam balls, or other similar items. Items used should be able to withstand several weeks of display without deterioration during Academic Rodeo.
4. The student may use glue or any of the above items for connecting parts of the critter together.
5. Hot glue should NOT be used by the student unless the teacher determines that the glue and glue gun are low heat and safe for the student to use. The teacher may use hot glue in attaching the Critter for display as listed below.
6. The Critter must be entirely created **by the student** without help from the teacher or other adults. The Critter created should be obviously prepared by a student of kindergarten age as indicated by the fine motor skills necessary to complete the project.
7. The Critter should be small enough to fit into a shoe box measuring no larger than 8” x 12” and will be placed and secured in the shoe box by or with the assistance of the teacher or other adult designated by the teacher. It is preferred that the shoe box have a removable lid.
8. Tape, hot glue, etc. is appropriate to be used for securing the Critter in the box by the teacher. When choosing how to secure the critter in the box, keep in mind that the box may be moved several times in judging and displaying.
9. The box may be covered with paint or paper by the student if desired, but again should be indicative of the fine motor skills of a Kindergarten student.
10. Limited accessory items for the critter made from the previously mentioned materials may be added to the inside of the box. These should also be appropriate to the skill level of the age.
11. The student should assign a name to the Critter which will be printed or typed on a label or paper and attached **inside** the box by the teacher **in a location that can be easily viewed.** Creativity of the name is considered in judging the entry. The name of the Critter will also be on the label attached to the shoe box top.
12. The lid of the shoebox should be placed on top for transport to the Academic Rodeo and storage during the summer.

13. The identifying label used for Kinder Critter Contest and for Art Contest should be placed on the **outside/top of the shoe box lid** in the top upright position and should include student's name, grade, name of critter, signature of teacher, name of school and school district. This allows for quick check-in when the entry is submitted.
14. Signature of teacher affirms that the entry was created by the student at school without adult assistance.
15. **Six total entries from the school or group** may be selected for submission to the Academic Rodeo Kinder Critter Contest.
16. Kinder Critter entries selected by the school or group to be represented in the contest must be submitted by the date designated on the contest timeline. Judging of entries will occur at a later time. **Students are not required to be present for the judging.**
17. Kinder Critters will be judged based on creativity and uniqueness of the Critter as well as creativity and appropriateness of the name.
18. The committee of judges will evaluate the entries and award first, second and third place winners and up to three honorable mention entries.

Tips for Working with Students

REMEMBER . . .

Primary communication with Coaches and Sponsors is done through e-mail provided with the School/Group Registration done online. If a coach or sponsor is not receiving e-mail information about the contest, he or she should check Spam/Junk folders on the computer and contact Academic Rodeo for assistance with getting the current information.

Deadlines exist for a reason. Please be aware of them and follow them. The **Academic Rodeo Calendar** in a true calendar format can be found on the Getting Started or General Info pages. The **Kinder Critters Timeline & Checklist** is on the Kinder Critters page. If you have a problem with a date or deadline, please contact Academic Rodeo, realizing that usually it is not possible to make a change or give "grace" for deadlines. Often judging or other timings are scheduled close to the due date. To be sure your students get to participate, follow the deadlines.

Kinder Critters projects are submitted in December to allow time for judging in the late fall with announcement of results in January.

Many children make familiar creatures – giraffes, spiders, elephants, etc. – which is perfectly fine. However, the truly creative "Critter" is one that comes from the child's imagination. Encourage that creativity rather than having all students do a similar project.