



## Junior Classes

### Lesson One

#### Theme

Farm Census

#### Key Messages

- Counting is an important activity as it helps us to keep track.
- The first and last job a farmer does each day is to count his animals so he/she can keep track of them.

#### Objectives

That the child will be enabled to:

- discuss the work of the farmer
- recognise and name farm animals
- sort farm animals into sets
- represent data in a pictogram

#### Follow-Up Activities

- The Missing Donkey
- Farm Visit
- Farm Pictogram

#### Integration

**Maths:** Number – Sorting, Combining and Comparing sets, Counting / Data Representation and Interpretation

**English:** Oral Language / Story

**Art**

## Teacher's Notes

#### *Talk and Discussion*

- Introduce the lesson by reading the story 'The Missing Donkey' to the children.
- Find out if any of the children live on or have visited a farm.
- Talk to the children about life on the farm and give the children an opportunity to tell what they know about farm life.
- Ask the children to list the animals that can be seen on the farm.
- Elicit from the children what work the farmer does each day – counting the animals, feeding the animals, cleaning out sheds, fencing, sowing / spraying / harvesting crops, cutting / saving hay and silage, buying / selling farm animals at the mart ...
- Ask the children to list the animals that can be seen on the farm.
- Talk to the children about counting and ask them why we count. The children can list the things that are counted in the classroom each day e.g. books, concrete materials, photocopies, crayons, lunch boxes, milk cartons, basketballs, pupils...
- See if the children understand how important it is for the farmer to count his animals on a daily basis – to make sure all the animals are safe and that none have gone missing, to decide how much foodstuff he will need to prepare and buy, to inform the vet of how many animals he will need to check, to work out how much money he will earn if he sells them...

- Distribute a copy of ‘ **Picture of Farm Visit**’ to the children. Ask the children to talk about the picture (this could also be printed on an overhead transparency). Make a list of the farm animals on the blackboard. The children can count how many of each farm animal they can see in the picture.
- The children could then colour in the farm picture.
- Older children could cut out the printed pictures of the animals and use them to create a pictogram on the blank pictogram provided.

## Key Vocabulary

* Farm	* Farmer	* Shed	* Barn	* Tractor
* Trailer	* Cow / Calf	* Horse / Foal	* Hen / Chicken	* Donkey
* Sheep / Lamb	* Sheepdog	* Pig / Piglet	* Crop	* Wheat
* Barley	* Hay	* Potatoes	* Vegetables	* Harvest
* Wheat	* Barley	* Oats	* Corn	* Vet

# The Missing Donkey



There was once a farmer who lived several miles from the nearest town. Every week, he had to travel to the town market in order to sell the vegetables, which he grew in his fields. There were no cars in those days and the farmer kept a herd of donkeys to carry his vegetables to the market place. He tethered the donkeys in a long line with ropes and rode along in front of them on a special donkey, which was stronger than the rest.

One day, the farmer had a very heavy load of vegetables to sell and spent a lot of time in the town. After he had eaten a meal and gathered up his donkeys, he set off for home with the donkeys trailing behind. After he had gone about a kilometre, he thought of counting the donkeys and found he was one short! There and then, he had to turn back and go in search of the missing animal.

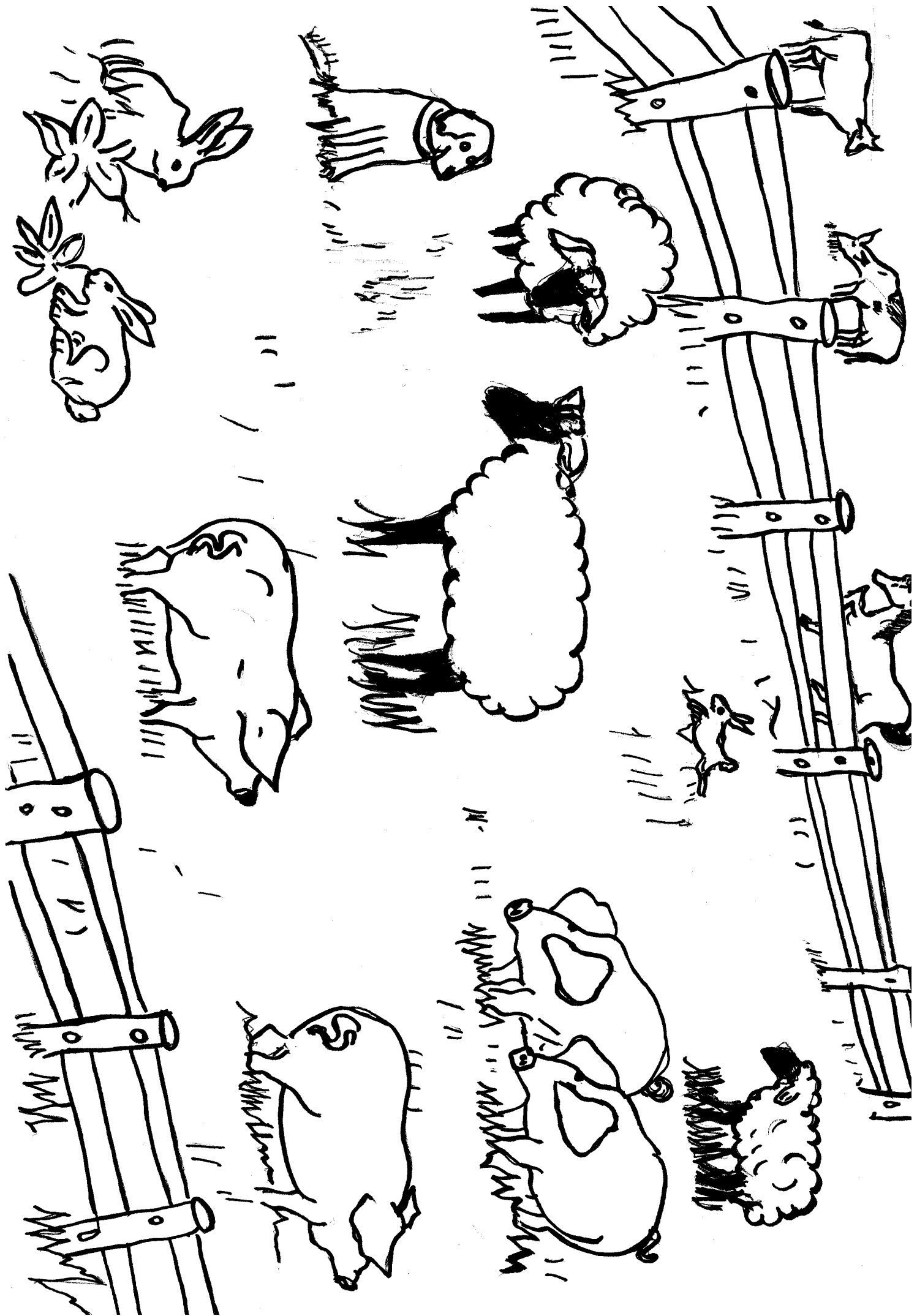
Along the road, there was no sign of the missing donkey, and before long, the farmer was back in the town. He tried all the places he had visited, but he had no luck! He got back on his donkey again, and once more counted the others. There was still one missing, so he shrugged his shoulders and again started for home. He was very tired when he reached his farmhouse, and was in bad humour. He couldn't afford to lose one of his donkeys!

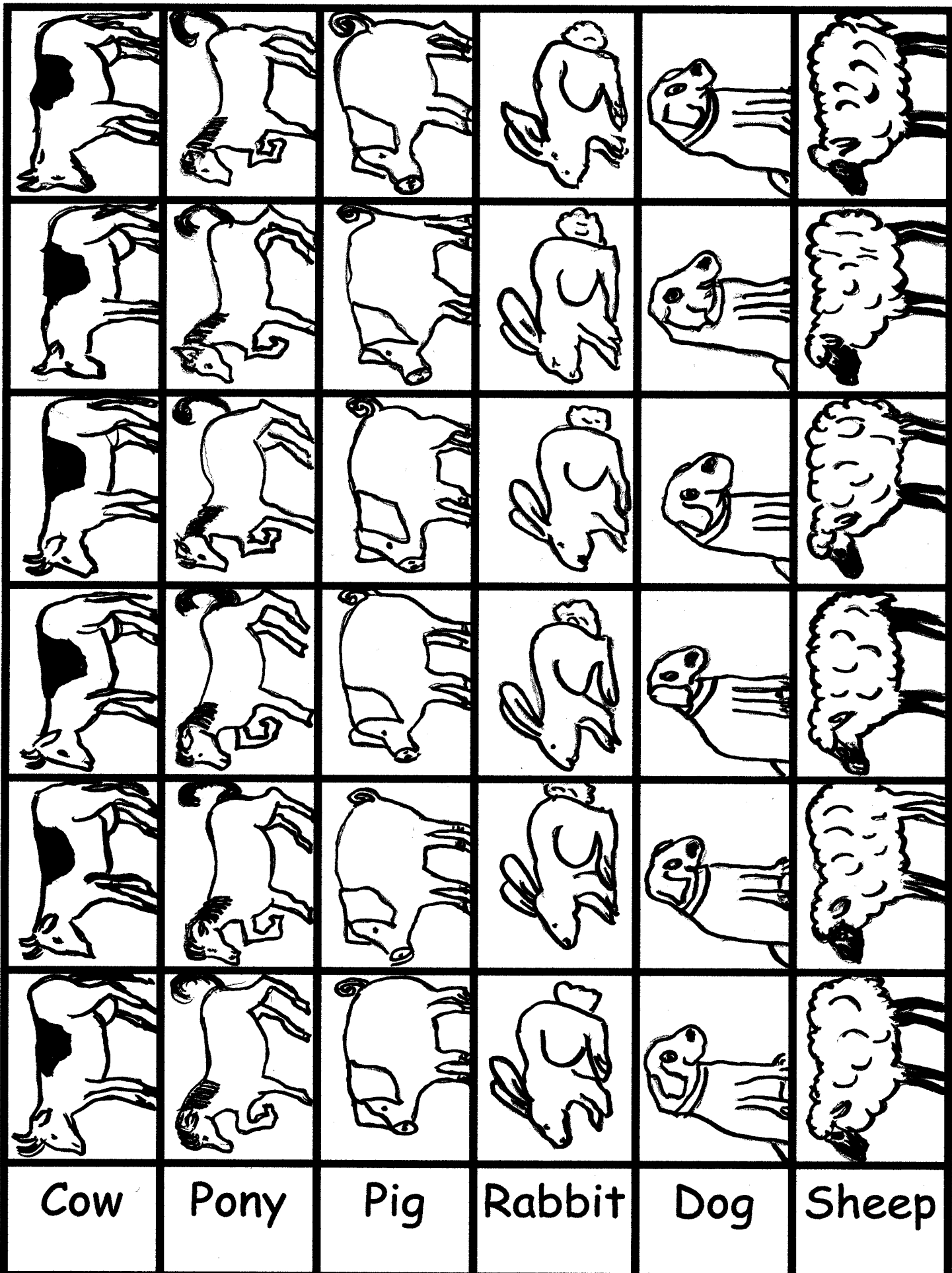
As soon as he met his wife, he told her of his loss. She, too, was very concerned and asked him lots of questions about where he had been during the day. It was a mystery to both of them as to how he could lose one of the donkeys.

"Come outside with me", said his wife. "We will count them again!" This time, his wife did the counting and to their surprise, all the donkeys were in the field! "I know the mistake you made", said the farmer's wife. "You forgot to count the donkey you were riding!"

What a silly farmer!

(Folens: Spraoi)





Cow	Pony	Pig	Rabbit	Dog	Sheep