

PREPARING FOR WINTER

Animals in Winter Puppet Show

Betsy Irwin

Teacher's Guide

Winter Program: Preparing for Winter

Grade Level: Preschool – 2nd Grade

Program Length: 45 minutes

INTRODUCTION

During the winter months in Illinois, wildlife activity in the woods slows down to near standstill. Much of the wildlife has left for a warmer climate, many insects just die, other animals hibernate, and those who do remain here year around expend as little energy as possible to survive in the cold, harsh winter months. As the children watch a puppet show they learn how some mammals prepare for winter life. Hibernation, dormancy, and animal habitats are introduced through discussion and the puppet show. Animal pelts, mounts, and other nature items are shared with the children to help them better understand animal needs and how they change with the seasons.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To better understand animal survival needs in a native Illinois habitat during the winter season.
2. To learn how animals and plants prepare for wintertime in Illinois.
3. To introduce concepts of hibernation and dormancy.
4. To encourage an appreciation of nature during all seasons.

THIS PROGRAM HAS THE POTENTIAL TO MEET THE FOLLOWING ILLINOIS LEARNING STANDARDS:

Learning Area	Goal	Standard	Benchmark
Language Arts	4	A	1a, 1b
		B	1b
Mathematics	10	A	1b
Science	11	A	1a, 1b
	12	A	1a, 1b
		B	1a, 1b

		E	1b
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SUGGESTIONS FOR PRE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. Guide a discussion to make a list of ways that we prepare for winter. (Clothing changes, food choices of more hot food, buildings are heated, outdoor activities change from swimming to skating, etc.)
2. Take a walk around the schoolyard to look for evidence of animal homes and animals preparing for winter. Make a list of foods available for animals to eat. Make a list of the different homes seen on the observation walk.
3. After the discussion of human needs in the winter and a walk and discussion to locate other animal homes and see them prepare for winter, note that humans are animals and we all have similar needs, especially in the wintertime. Discuss the ways humans and all animals need the same things to live in the winter – a warm home to get out of the cold, a place to store food, food to eat, and a space to sleep that is warm and dry. Role play different animals preparing for winter in short skits or plays.

DESCRIPTION OF LINCOLN MEMORIAL GARDEN IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The in-school program begins with a brief introduction of Lincoln Memorial Garden through a discussion about the painted scene of the puppet stage that depicts LMG either in late fall or in winter. (Fall or winter puppet stage is dependent on the season when the program is booked.) Concepts of dressing in layers for the best warmth in winter is presented and compared to birds' feathers and mammals' extra thick coat of winter fur. Humans' homes and schools are compared with animal homes in the natural world; then animal homes painted on the puppet stage are observed.

The puppet show introduces the children to mammals who inhabit the woodlands and tells a story of how each one prepares for and survives winter in central Illinois. Concepts of hibernation, dormancy, and

migration are presented in a humorous, yet factual way. Following the puppet show, animal pelts, bones, and other nature-related objects are shared with the children.

SUGGESTIONS FOR POST PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. Collect pictures of human homes around the world (igloos, castles, teepees, caves, wooden houses, adobe houses, etc.) and woodland animal homes (bee hives, burrows, lodges, nests, hollow trees, rotten logs, ponds, streams, etc.). Discuss and sort according to differences and similarities.
2. Create a puppet stage for the classroom, make or order a few puppets, and give the children the opportunity to reenact the Preparing for Winter puppet show they watched.
3. Reinforce the concepts of mammals and their characteristics by collecting many pictures of mammals from around the world. Encourage the children to observe the similarities, then the differences. Allow them to create through artwork their favorite mammal.
4. Read any of the books included in the Resource List. Act them out or make them into puppet shows for reinforcement of learning.

RESOURCE LIST FOR PREPARING FOR WINTER: ANIMALS IN WINTER PUPPET SHOW

Arnosky, Jim. *I See Animals Hiding*. Scholastic Books. 1995

Bancroft, Henrietta and VanGelder, Richard. *Animals in Winter*. HarperCollins. 1977

Barker, Will. *Winter-Sleeping Wildlife*. Harper & Row Publishers. 1958

Berger, Gilda and Melvin. *What Do Animals Do in the Winter? How Animals Survive the Cold*. Discovery Press. 1995

Brenner, Barbara. *One Small Place in a Tree*. HarperCollins Publishers. 2004

- Brett, Jan. *The Hat*. G.P.Putnam's Sons. 1997
- Buck, Margaret Waring. *Where They Go in Winter*. Abingdon Press. 1968
- Denslow, Sharon Phillips. *In the Snow*. Greenwillow Books. 2005
- Glasser, Linda. *It's Winter!* Millbrook Press. 2002
- George, Lindsay Barrett. *In the Snow: Who's Been Here?* Mulberry Books. 1995
- Goldie, Sonia. *Animals in Their Homes*. Lark Books: Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. 1998
- Kalman, Bobbie. *What is Hibernation?* Crabtree Publishing. 2002
- Kalman, Bobbie. *What is Migration?* Crabtree Publishing. 2002
- Nestor, William. *Into Winter: Discovering a Season*. Houghton Mifflin. 1982
- Sams II, Carl R. and Stoick, Jean. *First Snow in the Woods*. Carl Sams II Photography, Inc. 2007
- Sams II, Carl R. and Stoick, Jean. *Stranger in the Woods*. Carl Sams II Photography, Inc. 2000 (DVD available, as well)
- Selsam, Millicent. *Where Do They Go? Insects in Winter*. Scholastic Books. 1981
- Stokes, Donald W. *A Guide to Nature in Winter*. Little, Brown, Co. 1976
- VanLaan, Nancy. *When Winter Comes*. Atheneum Books: Simon and Schuster. 2000
- Wallace, Karen. *A Bed for Winter*. Dorling Kindersley, Ltd. 2000

