

Animals in Winter Unit

Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year Olds, 2007.

These standards are beacon lights for my curriculum. I adapt them according to the ability of my students. I use them as goals to strive towards or as background building for my students' future learning. These goals are my focus; but not the only objectives being utilized by these lessons. Language goals are used daily.

I. Virginia Foundation Blocks for Early Learning

1. Scientific Investigation, Reasoning and Life Processes

- a. Identify basic properties of objects by direct observations
- b. Describe objects using pictures and words
- c. Separate a set of objects into 2 groups according to physical characteristics.

2. Life Processes:

- a. Describe what living things need to live (shelter, water and food)
- b. That "baby" animals are similar but not identical to parents and to one another.

II. Concepts to be taught:

- Use Teacher Made Book by Teresa Williams in the story section on teacher page on www.mypreschoolcorner.com

1. Animals hibernate, migrate, snack and nap or stay awake in winter

A. Hibernators: sleep during the winter months

1. Bears
2. Groundhogs
3. Frogs
4. Chipmunks
5. Hedgehogs or porcupines

B. Nappers and Snackers: Sleep for periods of time, get up and looks for food

1. Badgers
2. Skunks
3. Squirrels
4. Will leave footprints or tracks in the snow

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II. Concepts to be taught continued

- Use Teacher Made Book by Teresa Williams in the story section on teacher page on www.mypreschoolcorner.com

1. Animals hibernate, migrate, snack and nap or stay awake in winter continued:

C. Migrate: Fly to where it is warm or Goes on Vacation for winter

1. Some Birds like Robins, Blue jays, and Swallows
2. Ducks
3. Geese

D. Stay Awake and Adapt to the Winter Weather: Grow a heavier coat or coat changes color

1. Rabbit: coat changes color from brown to white
2. Deer: grow a warm coat
3. Moose: grows a warm coat
4. Fox: grows a warm coat
5. Leave footprints or tracks in the snow

III. Stories to Be Read:

1. *When Winter Comes* by Russell Freeman
2. *The Mitten* by Jan Brett
3. *The Hat* by Jan Brett
4. *Animals in Winter* by Heniretta Bancroft

IV. Websites

Hedgehog:

<http://www.siec.k12.in.us/west/proj/hedge/index.html>

<http://www.siec.k12.in.us/west/proj/hedge/hatbook.htm>

Jan Brett author of *The Hat* and *The Mitten* for student activities:

<http://www.janbrett.com/>

V. Animals in Winter Activities:

1. **Categorize:** Animals that hibernate, migrate, or stay awake
Kindergarten Mailbox, Oct/Nov 2001 has pictures that the children can color and cut out and glue on a teacher made category sheet (my sample is included)
2. **Animal Picture cards:** Color sheets: Pre-school Mailbox Dec/Jan 2003-2004 issue, pages 53 an

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V. Animals in Winter Activities continued:

3. **Rabbits Adapt:** Pattern of a Rabbit: Pre-school Mailbox Dec/Jan 2003-2004 issue, page 55. Enlarge picture and Xerox it on brown construction paper. Then cover it with cotton balls or pillow batting.

4. **Paper Plate Animal Homes:** can add snow on any of the projects by using cotton, or paint or torn white paper

a. **Frog in mud:** Paper Plate: color or water paint blue, on brown paint for mud, glue on a paper frog in the mud, make sure you put brown paint on top of him so he's in the mud

b. **Bear Cave:** Fold paper plate in half. Draw a semi-circle at the bottom. Decorate the cave with gray fish gravel or paint gray on bubble wrap and print on the cave.

c. **Beaver Lodge:** Fold paper plate in half. Put the semi-circle either on the left or right corner. cover the plate with glue and put pretzel sticks on the plate

d. **Fox Den:** Fold paper plate in half. Make your semi-circle in the middle. Sponge paint it brown

* Enchanted learning has pictures of forest animals that can be colored and added to dens.

www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.html

5. **Tracks in the snow:** take a pipe cleaner and make a bird tracker by twisting the stem to make 3 toes (sample picture included) My assistant Angie L. designed this.

6. **Birds in Winter:** (Patterns included)

a. **Cardinal :** color red then add red fake feathers

b. **3- d bird:** color pattern and wings or paint ; hang from ceiling.

VI. Activities for The Mitten:

1. **Design or color a mitten:** draw a mitten outline on paper

2. **Mitten sort:** color paper mitten in different designs, the children put the matching pairs together.

3. **Lace 2 paper mittens together:** Outline on paper a pair of mittens. Laminate the mittens if you want to keep the activity

VI. Activities For The Mitten continued:

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for longer than one year. Attach an enough yarn to the mittens to lace them together. I typically put tape on one end of the yarn so it's easier for the children to lace the mitten.

4. **The Mitten Story telling Pattern:** Make a paper outline of the Mitten on white paper and put in the mitten animals from the story as you retell the story. This activity can be found on the Jan Brett web site.

http://www.janbrett.com/put_the_animals_in_the_mitten.htm

5. **The Mitten Animal Masks:** Print and laminate also found on the Jan Brett web site

http://www.janbrett.com/mitten_masks_main.htm

6. **Make a blanket** in the shape of a mitten (or use a sheet as a pretend mitten) and assign children to be different animals that get in the mitten

V. Activities for The Hat:

1. **Color sheet:** Hat color sheet from Jan Brett web site

http://www.janbrett.com/hat_coloring_page.htm

2. **The Hat's Reader's Theater:** download and laminate masks of the farm animal characters

http://www.janbrett.com/the_hat_play.htm

3. **Name the Farm Animal:** Identify the farm animals in the story

4. **Make the animal Sound:** Hold up The Hat Mask and have the children made the sound of that animal

5. Design a hat.

www.janbrett.com/design_your_own_hat.htm

6. **Hedgie project:** Follow directions on the page

www.janbrett.com/hedgie_hat_project_page.htm

VI. Games:

1. **Animal Card Bingo:** Can be found under farm unit in

www.mypreschoolcorner.com

2. **Animal Card Memory Game;** I own animal card games

If you don't, one could easily download pictures and make one yourself; and laminate the cards for durability

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These are pictures taken of my bulletin board in Buckingham County. I had covered up each animal with bulletin board paper in the shape of that animal's nest. Then uncovered each animal as I taught about that particular forest animal in winter. The children had a lot of fun guessing what animal was in the nest.

