

Animal Actions



Introduction

Over on a Mountain: Somewhere in the World introduces children to 20 different mountain animals and the continent where they live. In this activity, students match their animal to one of its behaviors.

Materials Needed

- ◆ The book, **Over on a Mountain: Somewhere in the World**
- ◆ Bookmarks or animals (free download at www.dawnpub.com/activities). Print enough for one bookmark per student.

Common Core Standards (ELA K-3)

- ◆ Reading: Informational Text
Key Ideas and Details (K.1, 2.1, 3.1)
Integration and Knowledge of Ideas (K.7, 1.7, 2.7, 3.7)

Procedure

1. Give a bookmark to each student. Read the book aloud, ending after you read the page about the penguin.
2. Ask children, "What actions do you remember the animals doing?" Tell them they can use their bookmarks as clues. Listen to responses, but don't comment on accuracy.
3. Tell students you're going to reread the part of each verse that describes the animal actions. These actions describe their behavior. Invite them to listen carefully to the words that describe what the animal is doing. When they hear the behavior of "their" animal, they should hold up their bookmark. (Action words/verbs: roll, eat, climb, sleep, forage, leap, soar, pounce, huddle, and waddle.)
4. Then reread the book from the beginning, but this time only read the second verses and don't show the illustrations. For example, on the first page you would read, "Roll said the mother. I roll, said the one. So they rolled in the dirt, grazing in the morning sun."
5. Ask students why the animals behaved as they did. Find out by reading the additional information about each animal in the back pages of the book.

Optional extension activities

- Younger children can sing the song "Over in a Mountain" to the tune of "Over in the Meadow," acting out the animals' behaviors.
- Older children can list one or more synonyms for each of the action words. For example, soar=fly, sleep=nap, leap=jump. This would be a good opportunity to introduce an age-appropriate dictionary or thesaurus. Ask students, "What reasons do you think the author had for choosing the words she did?"

Next Generation Science Standards (DCI K-3)

- ◆LS1: From Molecules to Organisms:
(A) Structures and Processes
(B) Growth and Development of Organisms
(C) Information Processing
- ◆LS3: Heredity:
(A) Inheritance of Traits