



A Chain of Events Story

Introduction

In the book "The Swamp Where Gator Hides" the reader is introduced to ten animals that live in or near a swamp. In this activity, students recall the cumulative rhyme putting the animals in the proper order using sequencing strips.

Materials Needed

- ◆ A copy of the book
- ◆ Sequencing strips
- ◆ Paper and Scissors
- ◆ Laminating machine (optional)

Key Concepts

- ◆ Each organism has different structures for different functions
- ◆ Behavior is influenced by internal cues (hunger) and external cues (change in environment.)

Procedure

1. Download the sequencing strips from the Dawn Publications website (see "activities.")
2. Cut into ten strips and laminate if possible.
3. Read the book, explaining that a cumulative rhyme repeats each part of a story from beginning to end. Also ask students to listen for the words that rhyme.
4. Pass out the strips to ten students and ask them to come up to the front of the room in proper order as you review the "chain of events" story again.
5. Ask: "Who is the first animal that Gator watches?" If the student who has the duck strip doesn't come up, ask the rest of the class if they know. Go on to the next creature. If the student holding the turtle strip doesn't remember, you might ask the class "which animal was taking a snooze?"
6. During the week, leave the strips in a basket next to the book, so student can lay strips out in the right order on a table.

Nature Connections

- ◆ The author describes what each animal is doing in the story. Why did she write that the snake slithers around, or the frog makes a rumbling sound? Using the glossary in the book, ask students to write an additional sentence about one of the animals, connecting it to the one line the author used in the story about that animal.

Additional Resources

Helping students learn to recall the facts of a story in the proper order is a skill that aids comprehension. Sequencing is an important part of problem solving across subjects.

http://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/story_sequence/?theme=print

<http://www.readwritethink.org/resources/resource-print.html?id=315&tab=1>

<http://www.readinginnovations.com/Comprehension/SequenceofEvents.html>

Sequence Strips for "The Swamp Where Gator Hides"
by Marianne Berkes

This is the duck who paddles in ooze.

This is the turtle taking a snooze.

This is the snake who slithers around.

This is the frog with a rumbling sound.

This is the deer who grazes nearby.

This is the egret nesting up high.

This is the vole who peeks from a hole.

This is the bobcat taking a stroll.

This is the sunfish who scoots away,

When Gator comes out to catch his prey.