

BC SRC 2017: Walk on the Wild Side!

Tween Program, Theme 1: Cougars and Otters and Ravens, Oh My!

Who Lives Near You?: Discovering the Animals in Your Area and Creating Your Own Animal Symbol

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ACTIVITY

This three part activity can be tailored to the area in which it is being delivered. Start by making a list of animals that are commonly seen in your area – whether or not it is an urban or rural environment. It can also be done as three separate activities.

1. Warm up: Who lives near you?

Life-sized animal matching game.

Post photos of each animal (from your list) on the wall. Write the name of each animal on a separate index card or piece of paper. You can make a set of animal name cards for each participant, or make a few and they can work in teams. Provide them with tape or sticky tack to adhere them to the wall under the photos.

Give each participant/team a set of the name cards and have them match the names to the photos of the animals as quickly and as accurately as they can. (If there's room in the budget, you could give a prize to the winning team.)

2. How much do you know about your animal neighbours?

After the warm up is complete, make sure that the name below each animal is correct.

Provide participants with a sticky note pad and a pencil or pen.

Have the participants write what they know about each of the animals (food, habitat, daytime or nocturnal, ex.) and whether or not they've seen them "in person". Place the information on each animal below the photo. They can use resources suggested below or whatever you have on hand. Depending on internet access, staffing, time, etc. a staff member could access the websites below and help the participants with some of the information. Have them choose their favourite creature and talk about why they chose that particular animal as their favourite.

3. If you could be any animal, what would it be?

Have the Tweens create art depicting an animal that they would like to be. Provide them with paper and art supplies. If available, provide them with magazines that might have animal images that they can cut up to create a collage of their animal. They can write a description for their artwork, or they can present it to the group if they choose (and if there's time).

Some guiding questions could be:

What kind of animal would you be? (Mammal, bird, aquatic creature)

Will it be large or small?

Will it be a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore?

Where does it live? Does it live alone or in a group?

What does it eat?

What kind of teeth does it have?

Does it get along with any other animals?

Does it have fur? Long or short?

What kind of eyes does it have? Can it see well?
Forepaws and hind paws? (or fins) Tail?
How do its features help it to survive?
What qualities do you share with your animal?
Any other questions that might help guide the participants.

SUPPLIES

Photos of the animals in your area
Index cards
Tape, sticky tack
Pens, pencils
Sticky note pads
Information books – samples below in “resources”
Paper
Markers, pencil crayons, etc.
Magazines for collage-making (optional)
Glue sticks

RESOURCES

Hinterland Who’s Who: <http://www.hww.ca/en/>

Canadian Wildlife Federation: <http://www.cwf-fcf.org/en/>

British Columbia: Graced by Nature’s Palette by Frank Townsley. Contains images of the wildlife and plants from all over British Columbia throughout the seasons. It is likely in the adult collection but is worth a look when preparing for the SRC themes.

City Critters: Wildlife in the Urban Jungle by Nicholas Read. Explores the many wild creatures that live in and around cities and how they’ve adapted in order to survive.

Symbols of Canada: Animals Edited by Deborah Lambert. Showcases the animals of each province. Includes a quiz and “Create Your Own Animal Symbol” activity.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Another activity that can be done around the theme of animals is talking about the national animal as well as the provincial animal(s). The above activity could be done using a list of provincial animals if it is too difficult to find images of local wildlife.