

Lesson Plan

Amazing Adaptations

Book: American Black Bears

Series: Animals of North America

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students research and gather content, and then make choices about text order and basic layout to clearly and coherently communicate that content.

Supplies

- *American Black Bears*
- 11x17 paper
- Colored construction paper
- Pencils, pens, and markers

Before the Activity

Read through the *American Black Bears* book, or assign it to the students to read on their own.

Activity

Read through the “That’s Amazing!” spread (pp. 20–21) with the students. Page 20 describes one way that American black bears have adapted to fit their environments. By hibernating through the winter, they are able to survive in cold areas. Show the students how the paragraph of text on this page begins with a general explanation of what hibernation is. Next it gives specific facts about how bears hibernate. It also includes a dark green box with a fun fact about bears. Page 21 includes a picture of a bear that relates to the text on page 20.

Today the students will make their own “That’s Amazing!” spread. Their spread will be about another way American black bears have adapted to fit their environment: how they find and eat a variety of food. The students should read through the *American Black Bears* book again, looking for information that answers the question, “What do American black bears eat, and how do they find or catch it?”

Each student should use an 11x17 paper to create their own spread. On one half of the paper, the students should write one paragraph. Like the paragraph on page 20, it should begin with a general explanation of a bear's diet. This should be followed by specific facts about what and how bears eat. Then the students should use a computer to find and print a picture of a bear that matches the information in their paragraph. They should glue this picture to the other half of the paper.

The students should also create a separate box with a cool fact about what or how bears eat. They can use the colored construction paper to add headers, text boxes, and other design elements to their spread, too.

Evaluation

Did the students begin their paragraph with a general statement about a bear's diet? Did they follow it with specific facts? Did the photo they choose match their text? Did they include a cool fact? Give the students up to 5 points for each element, for a total of up to 20 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading informational texts standards, grade 2 (RI 2.5) and writing standards, grade 2 (W 2.2; W 2.8).