

BLUBBER HANDS!

Objectives:

Children will know: Children will understand how blubber keeps you warm

Children will do: Children will make and use blubber gloves.

Essential Questions:

- What is blubber?
- How is blubber used?

Standards:

L10. Follows directions.

L13. Persists, attends and engages.

SSC1. Draws and constructs.

SSC 3. Describes changes in, makes predictions about, & describes relationships between living & non-living objects & natural events.



Materials:

- Bucket of ice water
- Ziplock bags
- Crisco shortening
- Duct Tape
- Whale and polar bear picture

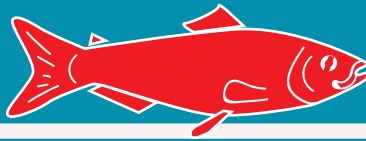
Alaska Native Values:

Learning by doing, observing, and listening.
Respect for the land and nature

Promoting Culture Self Assessment:

- I display pictures, posters and other materials that reflect the cultures and ethnic backgrounds of children and families served in my early childhood program or setting.
- 6. I encourage and provide opportunities and experiences for children that support Alaska Native culture.

ACTIVITY



Engage

"Have you ever wondered how animals can live in cold and icy water? We get cold very quickly in icy water, but some animals live in it!" Show picture of a whale or polar bear. "Whales have a thick layer of fat called BLUBBER that helps keep them warm in very cold water. Today we are going to make our own blubber to stay warm in icy water."

Explore:

Activity: 25 Minutes

Fill a bucket half full with ice water and set aside. Give each student two ziplock bags and set out Crisco shortening and spoons. Demonstrate steps for students as they follow along. Put three to four heaping spoonfuls of shortening into one of the bags. Put your hand inside a second ziplock bag of the same size and push it into the shortening-filled ziplock bag. Use your hand to spread the shortening around in the bags until the inner bag is mostly covered. While students continue to make their blubber hands, have students give you their bags when they are finished so you can assist with the next step. Take the bag from the student and fold the inner ziplock bag over the top of the outer ziplock bag, keeping the shortening between the two. Duct tape the fold down so no shortening can escape the bag. Give each student their bag once you are finished. Have students put their non-gloved hand into the ice water. Then have each student put their gloved hand in. Discuss and compare their results.

Explain:

"What happened when you put your hands in the water? One hand was very cold, but the other hand was warm! Which one was which? Why do you think the blubber glove hand kept you warmer? Blubber is a type of fat that whales and bears use to keep warm, and shortening is a type of fat also. Fat works well to keep your body warm from the cold, and that's what the blubber glove did to your hand. This is how many different animals are able to live in cold water. Some people wear very thick suits to keep them warm in cold water called wetsuits. Have any of you ever worn a wetsuit before? What are some ways you keep warm from the cold?"

Center Set Up:

Whole Group:

Blubber hands already made (do this before the lesson).

Display essential questions and have the whale and polar bear pictures. Engage students in a hands-on experiment to explore the importance of blubber.

Sensory Play:

Prepare: Place Crisco in a ziplock bag and tape the top together. Tape the bag to a table. Provide letter cards or a letter chart for reference.

~Students practice writing letters, shapes or numbers on the bag, as a fun, sensory experience.

Dramatic Art and Play:

Gather and share books about whales, polar bears, or other arctic animals. Engage students in discussions about how they animals survive in such harsh, cold climates and habitats.

EVALUATION

Emerging:

Student does not participate.

Developing:

Student listens to story but does not finish making blubber gloves.

Proficient:

Student participates, listens, and finished glove activity.

Advanced:

Student listens, participates, and makes blubber glove. Student participates in discussion.

