

MAMMAL MATCHING

Objectives:

Children will know: Children will learn about animal adaptations.

Children will do: Children will match Alaskan animals to their skin and fur type.

Essential Questions:

- What are adaptations?
- Why do mammals have different types of fur?

Standards:

L10. Follows directions.

PSH6: Engages in play as a means of self-expression and creativity.

M6. Sorts and groups objects.

M3. Describes and compares measurable attributes.



Materials:

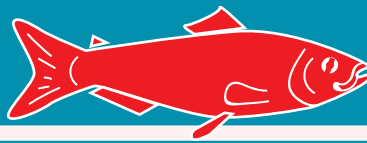
- **Animal Figurines (hare is in hare kit)**
- **Matching board**

Promoting Culture Self Assessment:

- 1. 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.

Alaska Native Values:

Respectful of subsistence lifestyle, Learning by doing, Respect for the environment



Engage

“We have been learning about different things that make mammals special. One of those things we have been talking about is their fur or skin. This is a type of adaptation. Do you remember what an adaptation is? An adaptation helps an animal survive in the place where it lives. Just like we need to wear certain clothing for different activities, mammals have different types of skin and fur for where they live. Let’s play a matching game and see if we can match the animal to its skin.”

Explore:

Activity: 10 Minutes

Set out animal figurines and matching board on a table. Have students place the animal on its matching square. Have students look closely at each fur/skin type of each animal. Ask them leading questions such as “Why do you think this animal has that color fur?” or “Do you think this fur helps the animal hide or stand out?”

Explain:

Invite local skin sewers into the class to show off their wares. This is a great way for students to see and touch actual mammal fur.

“Did you match all of the animals to the correct square? Animals have different skin and fur depending on where they live. Mammals that live in the water have really thick skin with lots of fat called blubber. This helps them stay warm in the cool water. Mammals that live on land have thick fur coats to keep them warm. They also have different patterns to help them blend into their surroundings. This is called camouflage. Do you or your family ever wear camouflage to blend into nature? We often wear fur or camouflage to protect us just like mammals do. When was a time you last wore camouflage or fur?”

Center Set Up:

Whole Group:

Display essential questions. Display figurines and matching board. Encourage students to play with figurines.

Art Center: Set out paper and markers. Have students try to recreate the patterns and colors of the fur they see on the matching fur board.

Sensory Center: Reach out locally to see if anyone would like to present different animal pelts or fur clothing. Have students touch each fur and talk about the differences they feel.

EVALUATION

Emerging:

Student does not participate.

Developing:

Student participates in discussion.

Proficient:

Student participates in discussion and activity.

Advanced:

Student participates in discussion, engages in activity and shares a story.

