

# SEARCHING FOR MAMMALS

## Objectives:

**Children will know:** Children will learn what a mammal is.

**Children will do:** Children will learn to locate mammals in their habitats.

## Essential Questions:

- What are some Alaska mammals?
- Where do mammals live?

## Standards:

L10. Follows directions.

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

SSC3. Asks questions and finds answers through active exploration of nature.



## Materials:

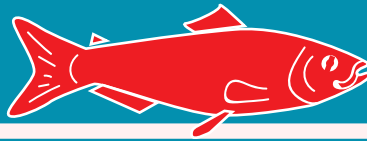
- wolverine plush
- hare plush (hare kit)
- seal plush (seal kit)
- caribou plush
- beluga plush
- fox plush
- brown bear plush
- lynx plush
- Binoculars

## 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

“Today we are going to learn about mammals. Have any of you heard the word “Mammal” before? What do you think a mammal is? We in fact are mammals. Mammals are a type of animal that has hair or fur and nurses their young. What are some mammals you can think of? We have many mammals that live in Alaska, some right in our backyard. Mammals like to live in all sorts of environments, from the mountains, to the tundra, even to the ocean. Let’s see if we can find some mammals in our own backyard.”

## Explore:

**Activity: 20 Minutes**

Preparation: Take some time before the lesson to place plush animals around the room classroom. If the weather is nice, place the animals outside. Try to match the animal to its environment. Place the seal and beluga by water or a water area in the classroom, the hare, fox and lynx in a brushy or covered area in the classroom, and the caribou and brown bear in an open area.

Give each student a pair of binoculars. Have students walk around the classroom or outside area looking for mammals. When they see one, have them raise their hand and say what they see. Make sure they describe where they saw the mammal and what was around it.

## Explain:

“What sort of mammals did you find? Did you notice that there are many different types of mammals? Even whales are mammals! How are mammals in our lives? We hunt mammals and use them for food and clothing. It’s important to learn where mammals live so we can continue to practice our subsistence way of life. Do you or someone in your family have any stories about hunting mammals?”

## Center Set Up:

### Whole Group:

Display essential questions. Display plush mammals. Encourage students to play with the animals and talk about what each one is.

**Art Center:** Set out washable paint. Have students paint their hands to look like their favorite mammal.

**Sensory Play:** Put different food items (fruit, vegetables, salmon, etc) in different jars. Have students smell the food and talk about which mammal would eat it.

# EVALUATION

### Emerging:

Student does not participate.

### Developing:

Student participates in discussion.

### Proficient:

Student participates in discussion and engages in locating mammals.

### Advanced:

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

