



Thunderstorm Visualization

Background Info:

During a storm, most animals and people need to seek shelter. Hard rain and lightning can be dangerous for animals and humans alike. This activity uses children's imagination to help them understand how and why animals seek shelter during a storm.

Materials:

- None

Activity:

1. Tell children to choose a species of wild animal for this activity.
2. Tell children to close their eyes and imagine what it's like to be that animal to do their best to picture the things described.
3. Narrate a thunderstorm. You can make up your own version, or read the following passage to the children:

It is an early summer's night. There is a coolness in the air. You can hear crickets chirping and frogs singing, but suddenly the chirping and singing dies down and the night is quiet. You can feel a change coming in the weather, and the dark sky is broken by flashes of lightning in the distance. After a long time, you hear the rumble of thunder off in the distance. But the lightning gets closer, and the rumbles of thunder get much louder. Suddenly, the entire sky is lit up white by a bolt of lightning. You need to find a safe place to wait out the storm, some shelter. Thunder pops and lightning flashes all around you. The thunder is so loud that the earth seems to shake. Cold rain comes pouring down in sheets, and the wind kicks up, making the rain pelt sideways and the treetops bend toward the ground. After a long while, stillness comes. The storm has passed.



4. Ask the children to open their eyes and describe what they saw and felt. Ask what shelter they found.

