



A Chain of Events Story

Introduction

In the book "The Swamp Where Gator Hides" the reader is introduced to ten animals that live in or near a swamp. In this activity, students recall the cumulative rhyme putting the animals in the proper order using sequencing strips.

Materials Needed

- ◆ A copy of the book
- ◆ Sequencing strips
- ◆ Paper and Scissors
- ◆ Laminating machine (optional)

Key Concepts

- ◆ Each organism has different structures for different functions
- ◆ Behavior is influenced by internal cues (hunger) and external cues (change in environment.)

Procedure

1. Download the sequencing strips from the Dawn Publications website (see "activities.")
2. Cut into ten strips and laminate if possible.
3. Read the book, explaining that a cumulative rhyme repeats each part of a story from beginning to end. Also ask students to listen for the words that rhyme.
4. Pass out the strips to ten students and ask them to come up to the front of the room in proper order as you review the "chain of events" story again.
5. Ask: "Who is the first animal that Gator watches?" If the student who has the duck strip doesn't come up, ask the rest of the class if they know. Go on to the next creature. If the student holding the turtle strip doesn't remember, you might ask the class "which animal was taking a snooze?"
6. During the week, leave the strips in a basket next to the book, so student can lay strips out in the right order on a table.

Nature Connections

- ◆ The author describes what each animal is doing in the story. Why did she write that the snake slithers around, or the frog makes a rumbling sound? Using the glossary in the book, ask students to write an additional sentence about one of the animals, connecting it to the one line the author used in the story about that animal.

Additional Resources

Helping students learn to recall the facts of a story in the proper order is a skill that aids comprehension. Sequencing is an important part of problem solving across subjects.

http://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/story_sequence/?theme=print

<http://www.readwritethink.org/resources/resource-print.html?id=315&tab=1>

<http://www.readinginnovations.com/Comprehension/SequenceofEvents.html>

Sequence Strips for "The Swamp Where Gator Hides"
by Marianne Berkes

This is the duck who paddles in ooze.

This is the turtle taking a snooze.

This is the snake who slithers around.

This is the frog with a rumbling sound.

This is the deer who grazes nearby.

This is the egret nesting up high.

This is the vole who peeks from a hole.

This is the bobcat taking a stroll.

This is the sunfish who scoots away,

When Gator comes out to catch his prey.



Compare & Contrast in a Venn Diagram

Introduction

In the book "The Swamp Where Gator Hides," which is a variation on "The House That Jack Built," the reader is introduced to cumulative story structure. In this activity students compare and contrast both books in a Venn Diagram.

Materials Needed

- ◆ A copy of "The Swamp Where Gator Hides."
- ◆ A copy of "The House That Jack Built"
- ◆ Paper on which a Venn Diagram is drawn

Key Concepts

- ◆ Unifying concepts and processes through evidence, models and explanation
- ◆ Understandings about scientific inquiry
- ◆ Characteristics of organisms and environment

Procedure

1. Explain to students that you will be reading a story that is written in cumulative rhyme which repeats each part of a story from beginning to end.
2. Read "The Swamp Where Gator Hides."
3. Then read "The House That Jack Built."
4. Discuss how the books are the same and how they are different.
5. Pass out the paper with the Venn diagram, explaining that the two circles help us show characteristics that are the same and those that are different. The spaces that don't overlap contain unique details about one book or the other, while the space where the circles overlap contains information that is the same for each book
6. Students compare both books and fill in the circles.

Nature Connections

◆ Author, Marianne Berkes, has written another cumulative story entitled "The Tree That Bear Climbed" published by Sylvan Dell Publishing in 2011. While this is also a cumulative story, it does not rhyme, and is about how a tree grows, which is quite different from either "The Swamp Where Gator Hides," or "The House That Jack Built." Older students will enjoy comparing this book with the other two as well, in a Venn diagram.

Additional Resources

www.graphic.org/venbas.html





Reader's Theater

Introduction

In the book "The Swamp Where Gator Hides," the reader is introduced to animals that live in or near a swamp in a cumulative story. In this activity, students perform a readers' theater as they read different parts of the story. Reader's theater is a wonderful way to enhance comprehension of the text and structure of the story.

Materials Needed

- ◆ A copy of the book
- ◆ Script for Reader's Theater
- ◆ Scenery (optional)

Key Concepts

- ◆ Each organism has different structures for different functions.
- ◆ All organisms have different needs.
- ◆ Behavior is influenced by internal cues (hunger) and external cues (change in environment.)

Procedure

1. Download the script for the Reader's Theater from the Dawn Publications web site.
Make ten or more copies.
2. Read the book, explaining how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes it.
3. Ask students who would like to participate in a Readers' Theater. Explain that there are ten different parts to read, including the part of a narrator.
4. Pass out ten scripts and assign parts.
5. Give students time to practice their parts using their own scripts. When everyone is comfortable with his/her part, hold up the book for the rest of the class to see the illustrations as the readers perform.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Students may want to do research about the animal they are portraying. Since there are only ten characters in the cast, the other students may want to research what makes up a swamp and draw the scenery as a background for the performers.

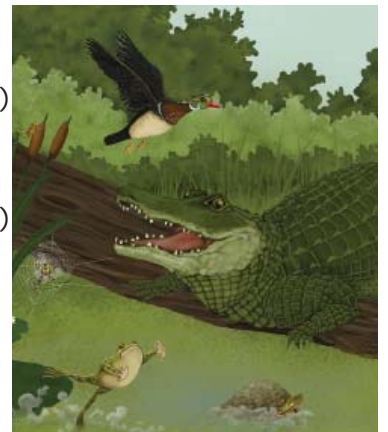
Additional Resources

Scripts and Tips for Reader's Theater by Aaron Shepard:

<http://www.aaronshp.com/rt/index.html>

www.lessonplanet.org
(keyword: readers theater)

www.readwritethink.org
(keyword: readers theater)



THE SWAMP WHERE GATOR HIDES
Readers' Theater

CAST OF CHARACTERS

NARRATOR: _____

DUCK: _____

TURTLE: _____

SNAKE: _____

FROG: _____

DEER: _____

EGRET: _____

VOLE: _____

BOBCAT: _____

SUNFISH: _____

The Script

Narrator: This is the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Duck: This is the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Turtle: This is the turtle who takes a snooze

Duck: Ignoring the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Snake: This is the snake who slithers around

Turtle: Past the turtle taking a snooze

Duck: Ignoring the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Frog: This is the frog with a rumbling sound

Snake: Eyeing the snake who slithers around

Turtle: Past the turtle taking a snooze

Duck: Ignoring the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Deer: This is the deer who grazes nearby

Frog: The bullfrog with a rumbling sound

Snake: Eyeing the snake who slithers around

Turtle: Past the turtle taking a snooze

Duck: Ignoring the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Egret: This is the egret nesting up high

Deer: Who watches the deer grazing nearby

Frog: The bullfrog with a rumbling sound

Snake: Eyeing the snake who slithers around

Turtle: Past the turtle taking a snooze

Duck: Ignoring the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Vole: This is the vole who peeks from a hole

Egret: To see the egret nesting up high

Deer: Who watches the deer grazing nearby

Frog: The bullfrog with a rumbling sound

Snake: Eyeing the snake who slithers around

Turtle: Past the turtle taking a snooze

Duck: Ignoring the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Bobcat: This is the bobcat taking a stroll who stalks the vole

Vole: Who peeks from a hole

Egret: To see the egret nesting up high

Deer: Who watches the deer grazing nearby

Frog: The bullfrog with a rumbling sound

Snake: Eyeing the snake who slithers around

Turtle: Past the turtle taking a snooze

Duck: Ignoring the duck who paddles in ooze

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator hides.

Sunfish: This is the sunfish who scoots away

Narrator: When Gator comes out to catch his prey.

All: Who will he have for lunch today?

Bobcat: Is it the bobcat who took a stroll?

Vole: Or the vole who peeked from a hole?

Egret: Is it the egret nesting up high?

Deer: Or the deer grazing nearby?

Frog: Is it the frog with a rumbling sound?

Snake: Or the snake who slithers around?

Turtle: Is it the turtle taking a snooze?

Duck: Or the duck who paddles in ooze?

Narrator: Under the algae that carpets the swamp where Gator no longer hides.

All: S-N-A-P!!! *(Put hands together and all make a clapping sound at the same time.)*

--THE END--



Swamp Dioramas

Introduction

In the book "The Swamp Where Gator Hides," the reader is introduced to animals that live on or near a swamp. In this activity students create ten swamp dioramas that illustrate various scenes from the book.

Materials Needed

- ◆ A copy of the book
- ◆ Ten shoeboxes
- ◆ Poster paint and paintbrushes
- ◆ Cardboard or construction paper
- ◆ Animal pictures from magazines or drawn by the students
- ◆ Scissors, craft glue
- ◆ Dental floss or sewing thread, popsicle sticks or tongue depressors

Key Concepts

- ◆ Each organism has different structures for different functions.
- ◆ All organisms have different needs.
- ◆ Behavior is influenced by internal cues (hunger) and external cues (change in environment.)

Procedure

1. Read the book "The Swamp Where Gator Hides."
2. Explain what a diorama is, asking students to think of their boxes as a theater stage.
3. Students choose a scene in the book that they want to use to make their dioramas. Two students work together if you plan to create dioramas of the first ten illustrations.
4. Students make a list of the elements they want to include, and how they will position them in the shoebox, i.e. what will be in the back and what goes in the front.
5. Turn cardboard boxes on their sides and paint the colors of the background landscape or glue construction paper to the inside.
6. Make the animal figures from construction paper, or use pictures from magazines and paste them on construction paper.
7. Glue them in the appropriate places in each swamp diorama.
8. Consider hanging objects from the top of the box with dental floss or thread. Or have the vole pop from a hole. Be creative!
9. Read the book again, enjoying the dioramas as you read it.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Have students research what makes up a swamp. Four or five could work together to create a scene in one large cardboard box. There are many other swamp creatures that could be included. It would be fun to see how different the dioramas are.

Additional Resources

<http://everydaylife.globalpost.com/tips-making-book-report-diorama-shoebox-27879.html>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/diorama/book/>



Who Am I?

Introduction

In the book "The Swamp Where Gator Hides," the reader is introduced to ten animals that live on or near a swamp in a cumulative story. In this activity, students guess who the animal is with clues written on a smart board or black board.

Materials Needed

- ◆ A copy of the book
- ◆ Clues written on smart board

Key Concepts

- ◆ Each organism has different structures for different functions.
- ◆ All organisms have different needs.
- ◆ Behavior is influenced by internal cues (hunger) and external cues (change in environment.)

Procedure

1. Read the story.
2. Write the title "Who Am I?" on the board.
3. Underneath the title, write the first clue, i.e. "paddles in ooze."
3. When a student guesses the correct animal (duck), write the word "duck" next to "paddles in ooze."
4. Write the second clue "taking a snooze."
5. Invite the student who guesses correctly to come up and write the word "turtle" next to sentence, and so on.
6. To make it more difficult, mix up the order, e.g. after "taking a snooze, " go to "with a rumbling sound."

Nature Connections

- ◆ Ask students if they can think of other animals (birds, insects, reptiles, amphibians or fish) that might live in a swamp. If a student has one in mind, ask him/her to give the rest of the class a clue, and continue to play "Who Am I?" Swamps are biomes teeming with animal life, you might ask students "Why do you think the author specifically chose the ten creatures that are in the book."

Additional Resources

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/biomes/swamp/swamp.shtml>

<http://a-z-animals.com/reference/animal-classification/>





**The Swamp Where
Gator Hides**

By Marianne Berkes
Illustrated by Roberta Baird
Dawn Publications
www.dawnpub.com



**The Swamp Where
Gator Hides**

By Marianne Berkes
Illustrated by Roberta Baird
Dawn Publications
www.dawnpub.com



**The Swamp Where
Gator Hides**

By Marianne Berkes
Illustrated by Roberta Baird
Dawn Publications
www.dawnpub.com



**The Swamp Where
Gator Hides**

By Marianne Berkes
Illustrated by Roberta Baird
Dawn Publications
www.dawnpub.com