

Sammy's Science House

Publisher

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Description

Sammy has five activities in his science house, the “Workshop,” the “Weather Machine,” the “Sorting Station,” “Make-A-Movie,” and “Acorn Pond.” Children can join Sammy and his friends to explore weather, build machinery, learn how plants and animals adapt to the seasons, sort objects, and sequence events in the correct order. “Workshop,” “Sorting Station,” and “Make-A-Movie” activities incorporate levels of difficulty. All activities contained in the software feature a Question and Answer Mode and all activities except “Make-A-Movie” have an Explore and Discover Mode.

System Requirements

Macintosh

Color Macintosh (256 colors required)
4 MB RAM (8 MB recommended)
CD-ROM drive (2X or faster recommended)
System 7.0.1 or higher
13” monitor or larger

Windows

Windows 3.1 (enhanced mode) or Windows 95 or later
4 MB RAM (8 MB highly recommended)
CD-ROM drive (2X or faster recommended)
386DX/33 MHz (486/33MHz or better recommended)
Super VGA, 640x480 256 colors or more
Mouse
Hard disk with 2 MB free
Windows-compatible sound-output device

Optional Computer Equipment

- External speakers
- Printer
- Touch screen

Introductory Activity

Read a book about animals in winter. Discuss how animals adapt to winter changes (some develop heavier coats, some hibernate or become dormant, others migrate).

Child Outcomes and Standards Addressed

Children will:

- Increase awareness of seasonal changes.
Science: Unifying Concepts and Processes, Science as Inquiry, Earth Science, Identify animals that live in the local environment during the winter.
Science: Life Science

Social Studies: People, Places, and Environments

- Explore characteristics that help animals survive in snowy climates.

Science: Life Science

- Collect information and make charts about the types of animals found in their area.

Math: Number and Operation, Data Analysis and Probability, Representation, Communication

Materials

- Computer with CD-ROM drive
- *Sammy's Science House* or *Millie & Bailey Kindergarten*
- Books about animals in winter
- Plastic animal figures

Ahead of Time

Capture and print animal figures and backgrounds from the software program to use in off-computer activities. Pictures can be printed in color and laminated for books or play figures.

Computer Activity

In a group, introduce children to the Acorn Pond activity of *Sammy's Science House*. Select the Winter option and talk about the different animals on the screen. Encourage two or more children at a time to explore the animals and listen to information about them in the "Discovery" option of the program. Encourage children to click on the scrapbook icon for more information about each animal.

Related Activities

Math

- Encourage children to compare their footprints with those of animals. Measure the size of each and count the number of toes. Note the shape that each print makes. Match similar prints.
- Observe patterns of animal tracks in the snow. Encourage children to make their own patterns.
- Make a chart of the different animals children see near their homes.
- Chart the number and types of birds that eat at the bird feeder each day.
- Note shapes made in the winter environment through ice formations or snow.
- Make a snowman and talk about the shapes used to make the figure. Make other snow sculptures of different shapes.

Science

- Encourage children to play with the animal figures and explore the different environments and seasons on the printed backgrounds. Match the animals to their habitats. Children can pretend to be the animals as they play with the figures.
- Read books about animals in winter (see list on page *).
- Take a walk in the snow near the school or in the park and look for animal tracks and other traces of animals to see what animals can be found. Take pictures of the animals and birds. Make a book about the walk using the pictures and children's accounts of their experiences. Activities with animal tracks can be done after a

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- rain if there is no snow. Animal tracks can also be made by sprinkling flour on flat ground. Put food out for animals—the next day tracks may be found on the ground.
- Observe the behaviors of small animals or birds in the snow. How do they find food? How do they keep warm?
 - Encourage children to draw pictures of the animals they see in the winter. Make a book from the pictures, adding children's experience stories. These books can be sent home for sharing with family members and later kept in the Reading Center for children's enjoyment.
 - Make bird feeders with pinecones, peanut butter, and bird seed. Hang these from a tree near the school or have children take them home and hang them in their backyard. Observe the birds feeding habits.
 - Play with shaving cream as an art media and compare in consistency to snow.

Social Studies

- Create a story about the animal tracks that children have found. A large storyboard can be made by the children that contains the animal tracks and pieces of nature, such as small twigs or branches. The children can develop a story based on the picture including information related to where the animals live, what they do, and where they may be going.
- Explore how people live during the winter. Compile stories and pictures about what people do to keep warm in the cold weather. Display pictures on wall or bulletin board.
- Make a *HyperStudio* stack related to wintertime activities children can do outside. Incorporate pictures, videotape, and voices. Children can share their experiences about what their families do in the winter.
- Encourage children to draw a picture of their favorite activity in the winter.
- Talk about other parts of the country and what people in other climates do in the winter. Compare pictures of places that do not have snow with places that have large amounts of snow. Children can compare their winter clothing and environment to those of people living in other climates.

Family Activities

- Sing songs about winter animals.
 - Scurry Squirrel: sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"
 - Scurry squirrels and don't be slow.
 - Winters coming, Don't you know?
 - Scamper, scamper all around.
 - Bury treasure in the ground.
 - Scurry Squirrels and don't be slow.
 - Winters coming, don't you know?
- Put food out for birds and squirrels and observe the animals.

Related Internet Sites

Lebanon Elementary School—Animals in Winter Unit:
<http://www.lebanonct.org/district/les/grade2/winterindex.htm>

Preschool Education—songs about animals in winter:
<http://www.preschooleducation.com/winteranimal.shtml>

Children's Literature

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