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# Software Title: Sammy's Science House

## System Requirements:

### Macintosh:

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

### Other PC:

- 386DX/33 MHz (486/33 MHz or better recommended)
- WIN 3.1 (enhanced mode), 95 or later
- 4 MB RAM (8 MB recommended)
- Double speed (2X) CD-ROM drive
- Super VGA, 640 x 480 (256 colors, or more, required)
- 2 MB free hard disk space

### Optional:

- External speakers
- Printer
- Touch screen

## Software Description:

*Sammy's Science House* introduces young children to science with five interactive activities. Children join Sammy and friends at the "Workshop," "Weather Machine," "Sorting Station," "Make-a-Movie," and "Acorn Pond." In the workshop, one of three levels of difficulty is selected and then machines can be built, painted, and printed. At the Weather Machine, children have the opportunity to experiment with different weather systems. A visit to Acorn Pond results in information about seasons and how the changing seasons affect at least 15 different animals. At the Sorting Station, one of three levels of difficulty is chosen and then children sort animals by different characteristics (e.g., animals with shells and animals without shells, animals with fins and animals without fins). And in the Make-a-Movie activity, children choose to make a three-frame movie or a four-frame movie of one of Mother Nature's events. All the activities found in *Sammy's Science House* feature both a questions and answer mode. The "Acorn Pond" activity offers children the opportunity to discover animal behavior during different seasons and in different environments.

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## Materials

- *Sammy's Science House*
- Books about animals in winter
- Animal figures
- Animal puppets

## Ahead of Time

Capture and print animal figures and backgrounds from the software program to use in computer-related activities. The captured images can be printed as they are, or placed in a graphics program, edited, and then printed. Pictures can be printed in color, laminated, and compiled as books or cut into play figures such as puppets.

## Introductory Activity

Read books about some of the animals that gather around Acorn Pond. Provide information that is not included with the software, about some of the less common animals (e.g. the shrew, muskrat, or salamander). Discuss the similarities and differences of the animals.

## Computer Activity

Introduce children as a group to the Acorn Pond activity of *Sammy's Science House*. Select a seasonal option and discuss the different animals on the screen. Encourage two or more children at a time to explore the animals in the different seasons, and listen to information about them in the "Discovery" section of the program. When children click the Scrapbook icon, they will find more information about each animal.

## Extended Activity

Take a field trip to a pond to observe animals and the environment. Create a story about the animals and the experience. Invite families to make contributions to the story. Share the completed story with families.

## Summary

This software serves as a springboard for many literacy activities. Children will have opportunities to develop and enhance their literacy skills as they interact with the software and related activities.

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## CURRICULUM INTEGRATION IDEAS

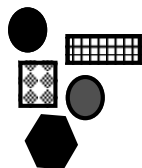
### Art



- Encourage children to draw pictures of their favorite outdoor activity.
- Encourage children to draw pictures of the animals they

see.

### Blocks/Manipulatives



- Encourage children to play with the animal figures and explore the different environments and seasons on printed backgrounds.

Match the animals to their habitats.

### Construction



- Form animals from a modeling compound and discuss the different shapes used to make the figures.
- Make bird feeders with pinecones, peanut butter,

and bird seed. Hang these near the school. Observe the birds' feeding habits. (Send home a "kit" of the items necessary to make a bird feeder).

### Cooking/Snacks



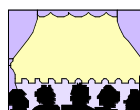
- Make Birds' Nests (Makes 10 servings.)  
6-2/3 cups chow mein noodles  
5 cups mini-marshmallows

1/4 cup and 1 tablespoon butter  
50 small jellybeans

1. Line a cookie sheet with foil and grease with spray-on cooking oil or butter.

2. Pour noodles into a large bowl. Melt the butter and marshmallows over medium heat, stirring until smooth. Pour marshmallow mixture over noodles, stirring until well coated.
3. Rub some butter on hands and form noodle mixture into ten round balls. Place balls on prepared cookie sheet. With the back of a teaspoon, press the center of each ball to make a hollow indentation.
4. Let nests set until they are firm. Fill each with small jellybeans. (Or use other goodies, such as M&M's, small gumdrops, chocolate covered raisins, or chocolate covered peanuts)

### Dramatic Play



- Include a variety of clothing from the different seasons in the dramatic play area. Join the children's play and engage them in discussions related to articles of clothing and what it might be doing outside when they are worn.
- During play with puppets, children can pretend to be the animals. Encourage them to talk about what the animals eat and where they sleep.

### Group/Individual Story Experiences



- Make a book from children's drawings, adding their experience stories. These books can be sent home for sharing with family members and copies kept in the Reading Center.
- Read and discuss books about animals during different seasons.

- Provide books about animal tracks. Compare “found” tracks with those in the books and determine which animal made the tracks.

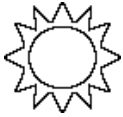
### Music and Movement



- Sing songs about winter animals. Scurry Squirrel (sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

Scurry squirrels and don't be slow.  
 Winter's coming, Don't you know?  
 Scamper, scamper all around.  
 Bury treasure in the ground.  
 Scurry Squirrels and don't be slow.  
 Winter's coming, don't you know?

### Outdoor Play/Motor



- Take a walk near the school or in a park and look for animal tracks and bird feathers. Record comments made by the children and take pictures of the animals and birds. Later, use the pictures and children's accounts of their experiences to make a classroom book about the walk. Use an authoring program such as *BuildAbility* or *HyperStudio* to create the book.
- Repeat the walk during different seasons and revisit the information collected on previous walks.

### Science/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 of each print. Pair matching footprints.
- 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 houses.
- Predict and then chart the number and types of birds observed at the bird feeders each day.
- Find and discuss shapes found in the surrounding environment (e.g., the round and oval seeds the birds eat, the triangle shaped butterfly wings, the oval shape of some leaves). Where possible, bring those articles into the classroom. Check to see if the children recognize them when they are out of their normal place. Place the found items with their corresponding geometric shape.
- 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. Smooth Velcro can be attached to the backgrounds and rough Velcro can be attached to the animals. Other options include printing iron-on transfers and ironing the images onto felt or flannel or using magnetic sheets for the images and using a metal surface for the activity.
- Activities with animal tracks can be done in mud if no snow is on the ground. Animal tracks can also be made by sprinkling flour on the ground and putting food out for animals. The next day tracks may be found around the food supply. (This activity may need to be carried out a distance from the school building. The animals attracted might not be wanted as repeat visitors searching for food).
- Observe and record the behaviors of small animals or birds during different weather situations. How do they react when it rains? How do they find food? How do they keep warm?

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## Sensory



- Create a pond environment in the water table. Add toy frogs, snakes, salamanders, and other animals that live by the pond.
- Provide materials for children to create a beaver dam or lodge for the pond.

## Literacy Links



- Make a recipe chart for Birds' Nests
- Display a labeled poster of native animals on a bulletin board.

## Related Software



- *Adiboo Discover Nature, Animals and Planets*
- *Amazing Animals*
- *The Backyard*
- *Let's Explore the Farm With Buzzy*
- *Let's Explore the Jungle with Buzzy*
- *The Magic School Bus Explores Bugs*
- *The Magic School Bus Explores the Rainforest*
- *My First Amazing Science Explorer*
- *Oscar and the Secrets of the Forest*
- *Putt-Putt Saves the Zoo*

## Related Web Sites



- Animal Diversity Web: [animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/](http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/)
- Animated Science Movies for Children: [www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com)
- Desert Life in the American Southwest: [www.desertusa.com/life.html](http://www.desertusa.com/life.html)
- Franklin's Forecast: [sln.fi.edu/weather/index.html](http://sln.fi.edu/weather/index.html)
- Lebanon Elementary School—Animals in Winter Unit: [www.lebanonct.org/district/les/grade2/winterindex.htm](http://www.lebanonct.org/district/les/grade2/winterindex.htm)

- Missouri Botanical Garden: [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org) and the Just for Kids button
- Preschool Education—songs about animals in winter: [www.preschooleducation.com/winteranimal.shtml](http://www.preschooleducation.com/winteranimal.shtml)
- The Wild Habitat: [library.thinkquest.org/11234/](http://library.thinkquest.org/11234/)

## Extensions Beyond Classroom



- Visit a nature preserve or wildlife refuge to observe animals.
- Invite a wildlife educator to the classroom to discuss local wildlife.

## Family Connections



- Keep a log of the different animals seen during a specified period of time.
- In the spring and early summer, watch for fledglings and animals as they venture from the nest.
- Make and hang “pinecone bird feeder” where it can be seen and watch as birds feed on the seeds and peanut butter.
- Put food out for birds and squirrels and observe the animals.