



Compare the Bear

Virtual Classroom Extension

Objective

This activity is designed to help your at-home student(s) recognize themselves as scientists and think critically about problem-solving. The goal is to help students understand similarities and differences between different species of bears. As with all lessons provided, please feel free to adapt them according to your students' abilities. Take these ideas, make them your own and your at-home students will have a greater chance at success.

Materials

Paper, writing utensils, crayons, computer or tablet with internet access.

Procedures

1. Start by watching the video about sloth bears (<https://resourcelibrary.clemetzoo.com/Area/21>), discuss what they observed about the animal in that video. Pay particular attention to what the bears were eating and how they were getting food.
2. In the video, one of the bears had a coconut. The presenter posed the question of whether you would work that hard to open a coconut. Discuss this with your student. Some potential questions to ask include:
 - a. If you wanted to eat a coconut, how would you open it?
 - b. How did the bear open the coconut?
3. Explain that bears, like all animals, have special adaptations that allow them to find food. Different bears around the world have differences that allow them to find food in their own habitats. What adaptations do sloth bears have that help them find food?
4. Have your student draw a picture of a sloth bear. Explain that drawing pictures is one way that scientists can record their observations of the natural world. In the picture, they should label the adaptations or traits that the bear has that helps it to get food. They may also include in the picture the type of food it would eat. Many of these adaptations were discussed in the video. For additional information about sloth bears, you can visit Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's Online Resource Library <https://resourcelibrary.clemetzoo.com/Animal/120>.
5. After your students have finished with their drawing, discuss their picture with them.

6. Explain to your students that the sloth bear is one of eight species of bears in the world. The eight species of bears are: brown bear, polar bear, American black bear, Asiatic black bear, Andean bear (spectacled bear), sun bear, sloth bear, and giant panda.
7. Have your students pick one of the seven other species of bear. Tell them to use the internet to find as much information as possible about the bear of their choice. They should pay specific attention to adaptations that the bear has to help it find food. Depending on your student's ability, you may need to help them with this.
8. Once they have read up on their bear species, they should draw a picture of it, labeling adaptations that the bear species has to help it to find food.
9. Tell them to put their two bear pictures side by side (the sloth bear and the bear of their choice). Help your students compare the two bears. Some questions to guide the discussion may include:
 - a. If nobody told you that they were both types of bears, would you have been able to tell by how they looked? What characteristics do you think are used to categorize an animal as a bear?
 - b. Do the two bear species eat the same types of food or find food in the same way?
 - c. What adaptations do the two bears have to help them find food?
 - d. What type of habitat does each bear live in?
 - e. What adaptations do the two bears have to help them live in their habitat?
 - f. What do you think would happen if the bears switched habitats? Would they still be able to find their favorite type of food?

Ohio's Learning Standards

Science Content Standards
Grade 3 Life Science Topic: Behavior, Growth and Changes 3.LS.2: Individuals of the same kind of organism differ in their inherited traits. These differences give some individuals an advantage in surviving and/or reproducing.