**Hook: Who Lives in the Boreal?**

Introduce students to a map of the boreal forest (using the coloured poster in the CFA Teaching Kit Volume 6, or from page 5 of this kit). Discuss the uniqueness of the boreal in terms of the amount of intact forest habitat that it provides for so many animals. Habitat includes room to find a mate and raise young, hunt and/or forage, and source water and shelter. Discuss predator-prey relationships among these animals.

**Procedure**

1. **Using the Living Things of the Boreal Forest** (page 25) worksheet, scissors and glue, have students cut out the plants and animal names and paste them beside the matching images.

2. Ask students to cut their completed worksheets into image-and-word squares. Onto the B-O-R-E-A-L (page 26) worksheet, the students should glue the various squares in the row of the chart, that matches the first letter of that plant/animal name (e.g., RAT should be glued in the ‘R’ row). There are two organisms per letter.

3. Older students can then answer the questions on the worksheet entitled: Getting to Know Boreal Plants and Animals (page 27).

**Extensions**

Ask students to make a list of boreal species and group them under many different categories, such as predator/prey, mammal, bird, insect, reptile, amphibian, plant and tree, or types of habitat preferred (grassland vs. wetland vs. forest).

Using the organisms illustrated on page 25, ask students to categorize the animals as follows: fastest to slowest, heaviest to lightest, loudest to softest. Ask them if they can think of other ways to categorize these animals.

Older students can make a food web of boreal plants and animals.

**Answers**

**Getting to Know Boreal Plants and Animals** (page 27)

1. Boreal Owl and Arctic Fox.
2. Eastern Garter Snake, Norway Rat, Arctic Hare, Lemming.
3. Herring Gull.
4. Ant.
5. Arctic Hare, Arctic Fox, Eastern Red Oak.
7. Elk.
Living Things of the Boreal Forest

Lemming | Boreal Owl | Bufflehead Duck | Elk | Rabbit - Arctic Hare | Carpenter Ant

Arctic Fox | Eastern Garter Snake | Larch | Bighorn Sheep | Norway Rat | Oak
Name ___________________________ Date ____________________

B-O-R-E-A-L

B

O

R

E

A

L
Getting to Know Boreal Plants and Animals

Examine your completed B-O-R-E-A-L worksheet. Use the sheet to answer the questions below.

1. Which two animals are predators? (These animals eat other animals).
   a) ..............................................................  b) ..............................................................

2. Which four animals might these predators eat?
   a) ..............................................................  c) ..............................................................
   b) ..............................................................  e) ..............................................................

3. Which one dives for some of its food?
   a) ....................................................................

4. Which creature has no bones, but a hard outer shell instead?
   a) ....................................................................

5. Which three change colour during the year? (Be careful to think hard about this answer!)
   a) ..............................................................  c) ..............................................................
   b) ....................................................................

6. Besides lemmings, hares and rats, which three organisms have the most offspring? (Hint: For the others, try to estimate how many offspring each has.)
   a) ..............................................................  c) ..............................................................
   b) ....................................................................

7. Which animal is probably the fastest of all those on your sheet?
   a) ....................................................................

8. Which animals lay eggs? (Be careful to think hard about this answer!)
   a) ..............................................................  c) ..............................................................
   b) ....................................................................

9. Which two spend the winter underground? (Hint: It's not the Lemming, Arctic Hare or Rat!)
   a) ..............................................................  b) ..............................................................

10. Which one eats lots of crayfish, snails, leeches and clams?
    a) ..............................................................