



B is for Boreal

Age range: 5 to 8 (Primary)

Time: 45 to 60 minutes

Subjects: Visual Arts, Science,
Language Arts

Resources: scissors and glue, and
Living Things of the Boreal Forest
(page 25), *B-O-R-E-A-L* (page 26),
and *Getting to Know Boreal Plants
and Animals* (page 27) worksheets.

Learning Outcomes

Students will become familiar with some common boreal species by matching up names with images, and then answering questions.



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.




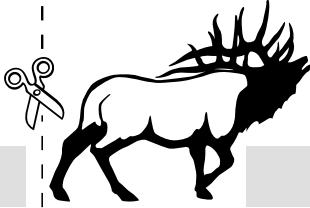


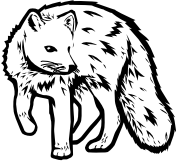


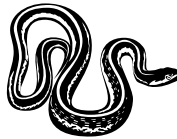




Answers


Getting to Know Boreal Plants and Animals (page 27)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Boreal Owl and Arctic Fox. | 6. Larch, Oak, Ant. |
| 2. Eastern Garter Snake, Norway Rat,
Arctic Hare, Lemming. | 7. Elk. |
| 3. Herring Gull. | 8. Herring Gull, Boreal Owl,
Eastern Garter Snake. |
| 4. Ant. | 9. Ant, Snake. |
| 5. Arctic Hare, Arctic Fox,
Eastern Red Oak. | 10. Herring Gull. |



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 | |





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.

- Which two animals are predators? (These animals eat other animals).
 a) b)
- Which four animals might these predators eat?
 a) c)
 b) e)
- Which one dives for some of its food?
 a)
- Which creature has no bones, but a hard outer shell instead?
 a)
- Which three change colour during the year? (Be careful to think hard about this answer!)
 a) c)
 b)
- 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)
- Which animal is probably the fastest of all those on your sheet?
 a)
- Which animals lay eggs? (Be careful to think hard about this answer!)
 a) c)
 b)
- Which two spend the winter underground? (Hint: It's not the Lemming, Arctic Hare or Rat!)
 a) b)
- Which one eats lots of crayfish, snails, leeches and clams?
 a)

