



Merry Lea

*Environmental Learning Center
of Goshen College*

Winter Nature

K - 2nd

Program Description

Enjoy the wonders of winter! Students explore how people, plants and animals cope with winter by using their senses in the wintery woods and meadows. Outdoors they search for signs of life and survival strategies used by native plants and animals. Indoors they warm up while engaging in fun and educational winter-themed activities.

Program Objectives

Students will:

- Learn how plants and animals use different strategies to survive the winter
- Discover there is great diversity among plants and animals
- Explore what it means to be "non-living" and "living"

Program Outline

1. Students begin the day with several indoor activities:
 - Puppet Show: This show illustrates different survival strategies used by various animals
 - Practice tracking: Students have the opportunity to walk like various animals.
 - Making plaster tracks: Students make individual tracks of common Indiana winter animals and take them home.
2. Hike
Students head out on our trails to get a close-up view of what plants and animals are doing this time of year. They participate in age-appropriate scavenger hunts, games and other hands-on activities.
3. The afternoon is filled with a variety of age-appropriate activities.
Options include:
 - Games
 - Stories with hot chocolate (school must provide hot chocolate supplies)
 - An introduction to Merry Lea's Ambassador Animal

Vocabulary

- Winter
- Spring
- Migrate
- Track
- Fall
- Summer
- Hibernate

Quick Facts

Season Winter: January

Grades K - 2nd

Program Length 4 hours

Maximum # of Students 40 Students

Standards Correlation

ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System: Seasonal patterns of sunrise and sunset can be observed, described, and predicted. (1-ESS1-2)

ESS3.A: Natural Resources: Living things need water, air, and resources from the land, and they live in places that have the things they need. Humans use natural resources for everything they do. (K-ESS3-1)

LS1.C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms: All animals need food in order to live and grow. They obtain their food from plants or from other animals. Plants need water and light to live and grow. (K-LS1-1)

PS3.B: Conservation of Energy and Energy Transfer: Sunlight warms Earth's surface. (K-PS3-1), (K-PS3-2)

LS3.B: Variation of Traits: Individuals of the same kind of plant or animal are recognizable as similar but can also vary in many ways. (1-LS3-1)

ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting an Engineering Problem: A situation that people want to change or create can be approached as a problem to be solved through engineering. Such problems may have many acceptable solutions. (K-2-ETS1-1) (secondary to K-PS2-2)

PS1.B: Chemical Reactions: Heating or cooling a substance may cause changes that can be observed. Sometimes these changes are reversible, and sometimes they are not. (2-PS1-4)