Three Stories High

Age: Kindergarent-1st grade

Subjects: Science, Literacy

Objectives: Students will be able to…

- Compare and contrast stories about wolves.
- Identify facts and myths
- Create a wolf story

Standards

- Wisconsin Social Studies E.4.10 Give examples and explain how the media may influence opinions, choices, and decisions.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.10 Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2 Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.2 With prompting and support, identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.5 Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information, drawing on a wide reading of a range of text types.'
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7 Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.'
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.2 Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2 Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.5 Know and use various text features (e.g., captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2 Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

Background

We create wolves, in our minds that is. As Barry Lopez writes in his book Of Wolves and Men, "So in the wolf we have no so much an animal that we have always known as one that we have consistently imagined." The traditional children's stories such as Little Red Riding Hood have given our society a basis to form our values. One way to learn about the wolf is to rethink these values and judgements.

Materials

- 2 fiction books about the wolf (Suggested: Little Red Riding Hood, *Wolf Stories: Myths and True Life Tales from Around the World, The Three Little Pigs, Lon Po Po, Wolf!, - See reading list for descriptions*)
- *Wolf Coloring and story page for each student*
- *Nonfiction resource (could be a third book, TWA presentation, a video, or a movie)*

Introduction

Go around in a circle and have each student say one word that they think of when they think of wolves.

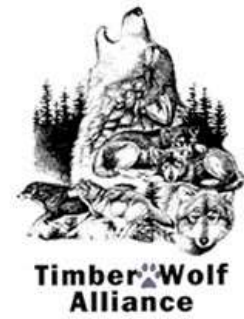**Lesson (this may be helpful to do over multiple days)**

1. Complete a nonfiction resources with the class Ask students to remember a few facts about wolves. After the resources, have students share what they know about wolves. Record these.
2. Read the fiction stories. Throughout the story or at the end, have students share how the book depicts the wolf. What do the other characters think of the wolf? What does the wolf look like? Comparison questions with the facts you found before.
3. Compare the responses from the fiction stories with their own personal attitudes. Ask students "What are the differences between wolves in the stories and the factual information?" "What is scary about the wolf?"
4. Tell students that we are going to write a story together. In a place where all students can see start writing "In the forest lands of the Northwoods there lived a wolf,… " Have students complete the sentence as a full group. Try to write 3-4 sentences as a group.
5. Now have students work individually and write their own stories using the wolf coloring page and story page for each students. Tell students that they should use the facts they learned to help write the story. Suggestions: what the wolf looks like, where the wolf lives, who the wolf eats, how the wolf lives in a pack, etc…

Conclusion

Have students share their stories with a partner. Students can also share with the whole class. Finally, repeat the beginning activity to see how responses may have changed.

Originally Produced by the Timber Wolf Alliance & Ottawa National Forest

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