

Ferdinand Fox's First Summer

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Nature, Wildlife, Seasons, Life Cycle, Animal Adaptations, Habitats

Book Brief: Join Ferdinand on a photographic journey as he grows and changes during his first few months of life as a young fox.

Author and Photographer:
Mary Holland

Content Connections:
Science, Language Arts



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Look at the cover illustration. What do you notice about the scenery? What type of habitat do you think Ferdinand lives in based on this picture?

The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pictures. What changes do you notice in

Ferdinand from the first pictures to the last pictures?

Prior Knowledge: Where and when are you most likely to see a fox? Have any students ever seen a fox? What types of animals do you think might be similar to a fox? Explain.

Vocabulary: adaptations, nocturnal, diurnal, prey

Purpose for Reading: As we read, pay attention to the type of environment Ferdinand and his siblings live in and how that environment influences their behavior and lifestyle.

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Who do you think dug the tunnel?
- ◆ What connection can you make between Ferdinand and other animal babies?
- ◆ What is the mother's role during the first couple of months?
- ◆ How does Ferdinand use his five senses?

- ◆ Why is the sense of smell so important for Ferdinand?
- ◆ What types of life skills are the fox kits learning through playing?
- ◆ How long does it take for the young foxes to become *self-sufficient*?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: How do Ferdinand and his siblings adapt to their environment? Give specific examples from the book to support your answer.

Extending Our Thinking: What are some ways that you adapt to the environment you live in? What are the similarities and differences between an animal living in the wild and a household pet? Do you think a household pet like a dog or a cat would change its behavior if it lived in the wild? Which of your senses do you feel is the most important? Explain your answer. Think about how human babies grow and develop. How do the first few months of a human's life compare to the first few months of Ferdinand's life? How long does it take a human to become self-sufficient? Why do you think humans take so much longer to fully develop than animals?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is Fundamental