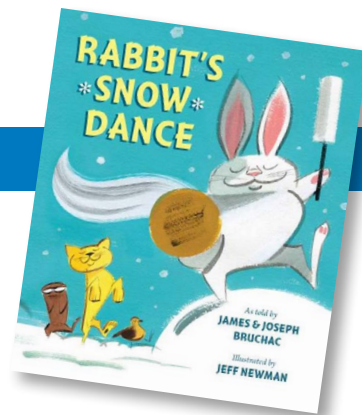


Rabbit's Snow Dance

RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMES: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH



SCIENCE, ART SOUTHERN LIVING

Materials: large paper, pencil, crayons or markers

If Rabbit wanted snow in summer, he could have just gone south! When it's summer in North America, it's winter south of the equator. Why? Research to find out why the seasons change. Fold a sheet of paper into four parts. Draw a picture of the earth and the sun during one season in the four boxes.

Label each picture to explain what is happening. Why does Earth's position change the weather?



TECHNOLOGY, ART, WRITING, MUSIC STORYTELLING

Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=3M4GlxULTIg to see Joe and Jesse Bruchac tell a story in English and Western Abenaki, or www.youtube.com/watch?v=blqpw8FRgGA to see James Bruchac tell a tale with help from a musician. Put students in small groups. Each group should write a story that teaches a lesson or explains something about nature. Students should find ways to make their storytelling interesting *without* acting the story out. Can they add a song? Can they tell it in multiple languages? Let groups perform their stories; if possible, film them.

ENGINEERING, SCIENCE, MATH FLOUR POWER

Materials: flour (or sand or loose soil); large, shallow plastic or aluminum tub or pan; square of cardboard

Fill a container with a few inches of flour. Have students push down into the flour using one or two fingertips. How deep do their fingers sink? Is it easy to touch the bottom? Then, have students push down with the same force using their whole

hand. Do their hands sink as deep into the "snow"? Why not?

Native peoples developed snowshoes by noticing that animals with large feet, like Rabbit, can walk in snow. Use a square of cardboard to see how snowshoes distribute weight.

ART, SCIENCE SEASON TO SEASON

Materials: white paper, pencil, markers, crayons or colored pencils

Fold the paper in half horizontally. Unfold it. On the top half, draw an outdoor scene. Trace over the drawing with black marker. Re-fold the paper; hold it up to a window. Trace the outline of the drawing in pencil, then marker. Unfold the paper and turn it upside down. Trace the outline of the drawing you can see through the back of the paper. You now have two scenes that are mirror images of each other. Decorate one scene as winter and the other as summer—just like the hemispheres!



MATH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Visit www.wunderground.com/history to find historical weather data for your area. Use the data to have students make graphs showing the snowfall over a given time period, daily temperatures, etc. Very young students can chart how many days it rained or snowed in a certain month. Older students can calculate the mean, median, and mode temperatures for a given period.



Reading Is Fundamental