

Surviving Winter | Box Turtles

In this lesson, students will discover how box turtles use brumation to survive the winter.

Grade: 1		Subject(s): ELA & Science
Focus Standard(s)	<p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.1.8 Identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text.</p> <p>1-LS1-1 Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.</p>	
Learning Objective(s)	The students will be able to write facts and draw pictures to support the idea that box turtles use brumation to survive the winter.	
Materials/Resources	<p>Winter Survival: Box Turtles</p> <p>½ sheet of construction paper (cut in ½ lengthwise) per student; crayons, markers, colored pencils</p>	
Vocabulary	<p>Vertebrates: animals with backbones; subspecies: groups of animals within a species that share similar traits; hibernation: period of deep sleep to survive winter; burrow: hole or tunnel in the ground that animals make to live</p>	
Anticipatory Set	Display the images from the Slide Show and ask students, “What do you already know about turtles?” Allow time for students to share their thoughts.	
Mini-Lesson	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain to students that today they will be learning about box turtles, including how they survive in the winter. 2. Ask students, “What do you know about winter? What is the temperature like? What do animals do in the wintertime?” 3. Remind students that good readers use retelling to help them remember what they read. Display a completed nonfiction text fact strip. [See example below.] Tell students that today they will be completing their own fact strip to help retell important facts and details from the text. 	
Guided Practice	<p>Begin reading the story aloud, pausing throughout to check for student understanding. Optional guiding questions: who, what, where, when, and why. [For example: who-box turtles, cold-blooded vertebrates; what-brumation; where-North America; when-winter; why-to survive freezing temperatures]</p>	
Independent Practice/ Closure	Provide sentence stems for students and display an example of a completed nonfiction text fact strip. Allow time for students to write facts and draw pictures related to box turtles.	
Differentiation	Adjust lexile® levels as needed; answer questions as a whole group; use accessibility features or read-to-me feature as needed; print copies of article	

Box Turtles

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Students may
add pictures or
illustrations to
each box.

Box turtles
live in North
America.

They are
cold-blooded
vertebrates.

They burrow
into the
ground and
brumate in
the winter.