

## Lesson Plans for

# Bear Snores On

by Karma Wilson

Bear's cave fills with animal friends as he sleeps in this classic book from *New York Times* bestselling team of Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman. One by one, a whole host of different animals and birds find their way out of the cold and into Bear's cave to warm up. But even after the tea has been brewed and the corn has been popped, Bear just snores on. See what happens when he finally wakes up and finds his cave full of uninvited guests—all of them having a party without him!

### STEAM

**Hibernation STEAM Challenge** – Winter is coming, and some animals are getting ready to hibernate. Provide the students with a group of plastic animals or small stuffed animal from your classroom collection. They will need to help make a hibernating space for one of them. The structure needs to have an opening that is big enough for the animal to get in and out. It also needs to be strong enough that it won't collapse in a winter storm. Offer a collection of odds and ends for them to complete the task: pipe cleaners, tin foil, string or yarn, rubber bands, tape or glue, play dough, straws, craft sticks, cups, paper, cardboard. Test their structures in the stream of a fan at different speeds for stability.

New to STEAM? Read the article linked below offering a learning format that can be applied to all of your STEAM activities.

### Literacy

**A “Beary” Fun Alphabet Game** - After reading *Bear Snores On* as a class, present the children with a simple cave made out of a small cardboard box or tissue box similar to the photo below. Fill the “cave” with a set or two of magnetic letters. Tell the students that they get to reach into the cave or lair (if they dare!) and pull out a letter. When the letter is retrieved, they should name it and announce the sound the letter represents. Extend the activity by having the students name something that begins with that letter sound.



<https://thecorecoaches.com/hibernation-stem-for-prek/>

With advanced learners ask for rhyming words for the beginning sound words their friends come up with.

## Dramatic Play

## Science

**Act It Out** - Attach each character card to an index card and laminate for durability. Punch two holes in the top and add yarn to create a necklace for each. Children who wish to be in the “show” draw a card and put on the necklace. Other children or extra children can be the audience this time. (If you have more than 8 children you will want to do the show more than once!) Encourage the players to gather or create the props and costumes they need to become their character. Re-enact the story as many times as they’d like.

Take this to the next level by reviewing some of the new vocabulary words found in the book - **lair, blubber, clutters, fret, slumbering** - before the action begins. Encourage the players to use these new words in their dialog while acting out the story.

**Winter Food** - How do animals find food in the winter? Sometimes it can be pretty hard and one reason many animals hibernate. Do this activity to find out what it would be like if you had to eat food that was frozen or covered by ice! Place some pieces of fruit in a paper cup enough for each child to have one. Fill the cup with water and freeze. Once frozen, gather the children and show them some pieces of the fruit and encourage them notice the texture and smell. Ask them how long it would take them to eat that fruit. Now offer each child a frozen cup of fruit to eat. Can they smell the fruit? Can they eat it? Water surrounding the food makes it hard to smell, find and eat. This is one reason that animals that don’t hibernate gather and store food before the winter comes. Provide a bowl, water and pipettes to help them release their “snack”. [learning-center.homesciencetools.com/article/learn-about-hibernation/](http://learning-center.homesciencetools.com/article/learn-about-hibernation/)

## Math

## Art

**Read, Listen, Count** - Prepare for this activity by gathering a large supply of cotton balls (any type counters will work!) and baskets or some type of container for each player to put their counters in as the game goes along. You will also use the character cards provided.

Have each player draw a character card. Review with each child the beginning sound of their character. Encourage them to think of other words that begin with that sound. You will then read the story again and ask them to listen for the name of their character to be read. When they hear their name, place a counter in the container.

**Directed Drawing** - If you haven’t tried directed drawing, here’s your chance. While still allowing creativity to be the goal, directed drawing builds listening skills, encourages following directions, inspires those who “can’t” draw, and starts a conversation that even the world’s greatest art starts with a tiny dot.

Provide children with construction paper and crayons in shades of red, brown and black. Have the children follow along as you draw on a white board or chart paper an arch/half circle/upside down U near the lower half of the paper and two smaller ones on top for ears.

When the story is over, have each child count their counters and compare the number of times each character was mentioned. Who has the most? Who has the least? Are any equal? How many more would wren need to equal mouse? Group the counters by 2, 5 or 10. How many more to you need to complete your set? See where these math conversations take you!



Add eyes and a nose with a J and a backwards J for a mouth.

The next step is to paint the bear. Offer brown and white paint and show the children how white can change the shade of brown. Use a Q-tip and black paint to enhance the facial features. Then with white paint let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.



<http://preschoolpowolpackets.blogspot.com/2017/01/bear-craft-for-preschoolers->

## Music/Movement

Try this winter twist to an old classic!

### Hibernation Song

*(to tune of WHEELS ON THE BUS)*

The weather's getting cold so bundle up,  
bundle up, bundle up.

The weather's getting cold so bundle up,  
winter's coming soon.... Hug yourself and shiver.

The bears in the cave sleep all the time..... Rest head on hands.

The squirrels in the trees get lots of nuts..... Pretend to pick up nuts from the ground.

The frogs and toads go deep in mud..... Hop like a frog.

The ducks and the geese go flying south..... Flap your arms.

The people in the town wear hats and gloves..... Pretend to put on a hat and jazz hands!

Comments or questions? Contact Shannon Albee | BBTL Curriculum & Training Coordinator  
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