

Snow School

A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Themes: Animals, Survival, Family

Book Brief: A rare look at the endangered life of snow leopards. A mother leopard helps her newborn cubs learn how to survive.

Author:
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Illustrator:
Alan Marks



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: Ask children to explain what they know about endangered animals. Explain that snow leopards are extremely endangered animals that live in the mountain regions of Pakistan. Ask, “What do animals need in order to survive? How do animals protect themselves from predators?”

RELATED ACTIVITIES

BEHAVE LIKE THE ANIMALS (AGES 8-12)

Materials: index cards, chart paper, markers

Animals have two types of behavior, learned (taught by an adult) or instinctive (inborn). Discuss the two types of behaviors using examples from the story and other familiar animals. Pass out cards with animal behaviors on them. Have students take turns acting them out while others guess the behavior and then classify as learned or instinctive on chart paper.

LEADER OF THE PACK (AGES 5-12)

Snow leopards live in groups or packs. Do children know any other animals that live in groups or packs? All sitting in a circle, choose one child as the “leader of the pack” and one child to go out of the room for a minute. The leader starts a rhythm pattern for others to follow (clapping, snapping, touching head) and



then changes the pattern suddenly. Once the group has started, invite the child back into the room. By watching closely, the child must guess who the “leader of the pack” is. When correct, then that child becomes the new “leader of the pack” and the game continues.

ANIMAL CREATIONS (AGES 5-12)

Materials: scrap materials (paper, cloth, paper towel tubes, paper clips, brads, feathers, etc.), play dough, scissors, glue, markers, crayons

Discuss ways the snow leopard adapted to its environment (fur, spots, large, thick paws, etc.). Have children in pairs or solo create a newly invented animal, including its adaptations needed to survive. Have kids draw or make their animals and create habitats for them. Display and share with other groups.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

A Mother's Journey (2006)
Family Pack (2011)
Waiting for Ice (2012)



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