

Snow School

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

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, make connections: What do animals need in order to survive? How do animals protect themselves from predators?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ What lessons do the snow leopard cubs learn?
- ◆ Why are these “Snow School” lessons important to the everyday life of the leopards?
- ◆ What behaviors of the cubs are learned? What behaviors are instinctive or innate?
- ◆ What ways can humans help protect the leopards or any other endangered animals from extinction?

While reading, draw comparisons: Snow leopard cubs learn several lessons about survival. Discuss which lessons in the book can relate to your life. What are some other lessons that you learn in school or at home that are important to life?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

HABITAT HUNT

What animal habitats can you find near your home? The snow leopard lives in a den in the mountains. Look high and look low. Has a spider built a web or a bird nested in a nearby tree? Go on a habitat hunt and list the animals or animal homes you find. Be careful: observe but do not disturb any homes!

“SCENT”SATIONAL

Materials: small paper cups, items with strong smells (lemon juice, vinegar, popcorn, peanut butter, etc.), blindfold

Many animals, such as the snow leopard, use their sense of smell to find prey. Put several strong smelling items in cups when your child isn't looking.

Using the blindfold or having the child cover their eyes, have your child guess the scents. Is this an easy or hard activity? Talk to your child about taste, smell, and adjectives that describe smells and tastes.

SNOW “LEOPARD” CONE

Ingredients: vanilla ice cream or frozen yogurt, chocolate chips, ice cream cone

Scoop vanilla ice cream on top of the cone. Add chocolate chips to represent the snow leopard spots, placing them all around the ice cream. As you eat the ice cream, think about where the snow leopard lives. What adaptations help the snow leopards survive in the cold climate?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

A Mother's Journey (2006)

Family Pack (2011)

Waiting for Ice (2012)



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