



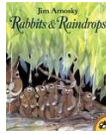
Unit 3

Week 3

Outdoor Learning Opportunities:

Animal Dens - Camouflage

Standards:
SED.ED.SR.PS.6 & 7
ALT.IC.PS.4 & 5
SS.G.PS.3
S.LS.PS.4



Enduring Understanding(s):

Weather affects living things.

Living things often depend on each other for shelter and protection.

Essential Question(s):

How do living things work together to solve problems and accomplish goals?

Materials:

- Loose parts in an outdoor area (logs, stumps, large and small sticks, branches, large cardboard boxes, tarps, etc.)
- Field guides with information about animals in Maine and what they need to survive and the types of shelters or dens they build
- A wooded area large enough to play a hiding game

Vocabulary:

- Animal den
- Camouflage
- Shelter
- Home

As part of the research and discussion about animal dens and how animals prepare for winter, children will begin to understand what animals need to survive the winter. They can take a hike outside and look for animal dens and the materials used to build them.

Provide loose parts in an outdoor area (logs, stumps, large and small sticks, branches, large cardboard boxes, tarps, etc.) for children to use to build an animal den. They can choose an animal to research or create a new animal, then use the loose parts to build a den. They can work with other children or on their own. Children can visit each other's dens and learn about the needs of the animals the children research or create.

Extension: Children can play a camouflage game to reinforce the need that animals need dens that are not easy to identify in order to be safe from predators. In a wooded area, the leader counts to 10 and the children find a place to hide. If they have created a den, they can hide in or near the den. Choosing where to hide is based on the color of the clothing the child is wearing. If they hide near

something the same color and stay very still, they will not be seen. The leader stays in one spot and looks around calling out children's names as they see them and mentioning the colors they are wearing or if they are moving. This continues until everyone is seen or they can't be found. It is important for children to be able to see the leader from wherever they are so they don't go too far.

Guiding Questions:

- What do animals need to survive the winter?
- How do you build an animal den? What materials do you need and how will your den protect the animal you have chosen or created?
- What is camouflage? Why do animals and their dens need to be camouflaged?