



Investigating Science Through Bears



IN A NUTSHELL

Written by: Karlene Ray Smith &
Anne Hudson Bush

Libraries Unlimited Inc.
Teacher Ideas Press
88 Post Road West
Westport, CT 06881

phone: (800) 225-5800
fax: (203) 222-1502
e-mail: lu-books@lu.com
website: www.lu.com

Cost: \$23.50

SUBJECTS

Fine Arts
Language Arts
Science
Social Studies

This book consists of information and lesson plans involving four widely-known types of bears: the polar, panda, brown, and black bears. Each is covered in a separate chapter consisting of an introduction, two to three lesson plans, and information on the bear's physical characteristics, habitat, life cycle, and interactions with humans. Lesson plans include projects such as building models of bear habitats, designing posters about endangered bears, and conducting simple experiments regarding water pollution. A subsequent chapter gives less detailed information on four other bear species. A section entitled "Bear Parties in the Classroom" gives suggestions for using teddy bears for educational purposes. The text also includes a chapter on bears in literature, an index, recipes for making modeling clay, educational resources for teachers, annotated bibliographies, and masters of student learning sheets.

Grade Level
3-5
Length
212 pages
Date Published
1994

THE BOTTOM
LINE

"The activities do a good job with language concepts — reading, mapping, exchanging ideas and insights — and are entertaining and fun."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Provides thorough background information on various bear species.	Reviewers and sources of information are not listed.
	Depth	Provides general awareness about bears and their situation. Introduces some general science concepts.	
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Involves students in researching and analyzing. Contains many group activities.	
	Action Orientation	Not Applicable.	
	Instructional Soundness	Lists goals and objectives. Material is interdisciplinary and uses a variety of instructional techniques.	Some activities may be more appropriate for younger grades.
	Usability	Supplies needed are easily obtained. Information is adaptable and long-lived.	

"Too much of an emphasis on facts, not on what the facts mean."

"I could see it being useful to a scout leader or other nonformal educator, or to a teacher willing to do the work to integrate it into the curriculum."