

Bears and Pandas



The theme of bears can last a couple of months in the classroom. It is a theme that is well provided with resources. There are endless storybooks written with bears that can be used in your whole language program. Bears are well covered in the fiction section of your library.

Fill your class library with as many of these books as you can.

Brainstorm with the class to discover what they would like to know about bears. Chart all suggestions.

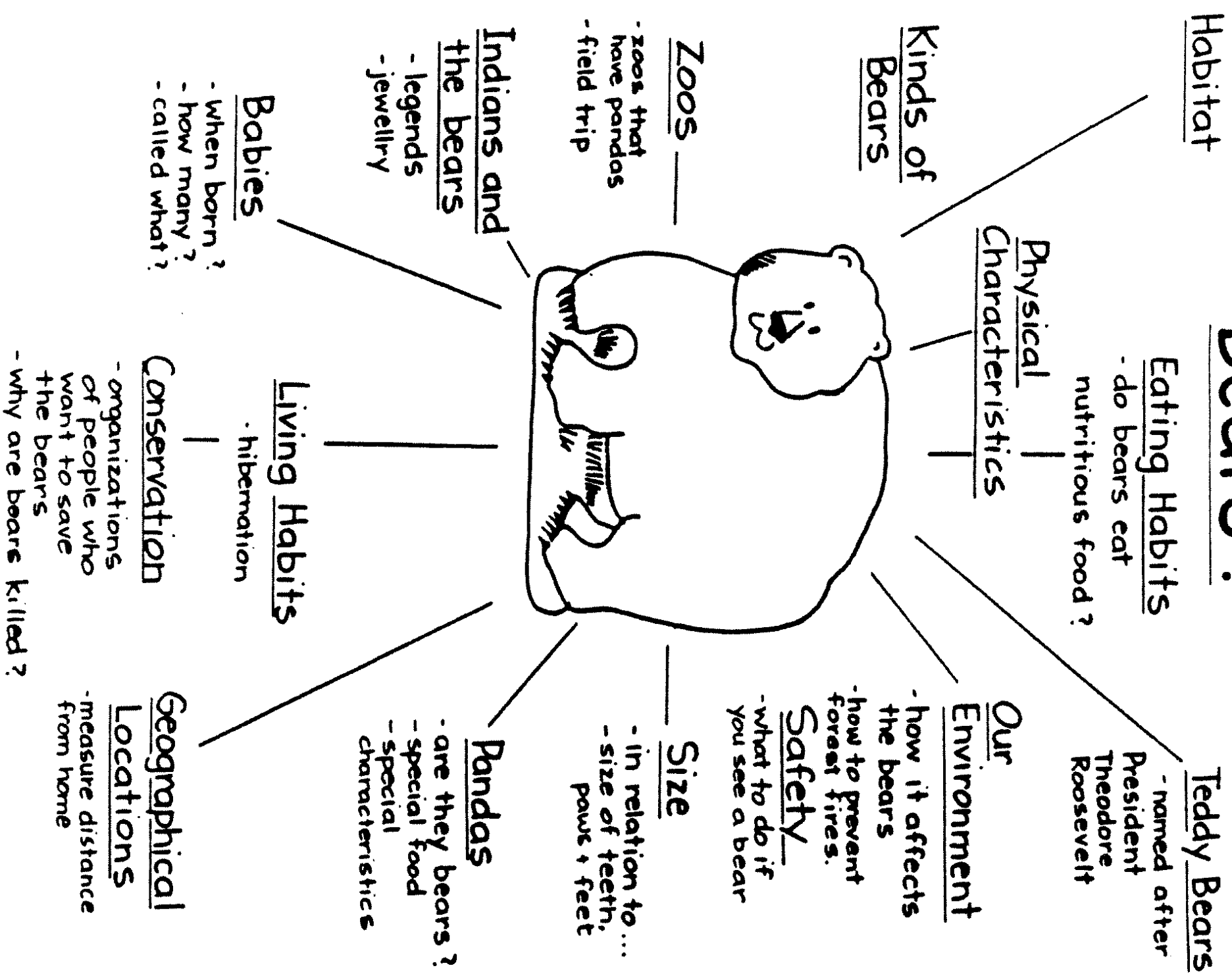
Brainstorm and make a bear word list.

Begin each day with a minimal cues exercise. Write the sentences on a chart and complete orally.*

Provide centre books to complete the task cards and to hold the centre book pages. Include the tracking sheet.

Display your hands on activities and task cards at the beginning of your theme to arouse student interest. You may use the web to help you get your topics rolling.

Bears!



Display a brainstorm web in the classroom. Students will add to the web as you study bears.

In some ways, polar bears and black bears are the same. In some ways they are different.
Can you complete the chart?

	Polar bears	Black bears
What do they eat ?	Seals	
Where do they live ?		In forests and parks .
What do they look like ?		Black fur . 4 legs A large animal
What are the babies called ?	Cubs	

On a blank piece of paper, draw a picture of a polar bear and a black bear.

Can you pretend that you are a polar bear?


You want to write a letter to the president of an oil company. You want to tell him what happens when his company spills oil in the ocean.

Don't forget to tell the president what the oil does to your fur when you swim in the ocean!

Dear Mr. Oil Company President ,




Yours truly,
Polar Bear

If I were a  for just one day, I would eat

instead of 

If I were a  for just one day,

I would look like this 

instead of this : 

brown bear

Would you like to hibernate for the winter?
What would you do to make your den more comfortable?
Can you draw a picture of your den, ready for hibernation?

polar bear

Can you pretend that you are a polar bear?
You live in a zoo in Ontario, Canada. A zookeeper looks after you. Can you write him a list of the things that he must do to take care of you?

Can you pretend that you are a seal?
A polar bear wants to eat you. You do not want to be eaten. You must tell the polar bear not to eat you. What reason will you give him?

Ming is a Giant Panda. She is visiting a zoo in Canada. Ming needs to eat bamboo, but bamboo does not grow in Canada.
Where will the zoo get the bamboo to feed Ming? How will they get it to her?

panda

Minimal Cues
Class Activity

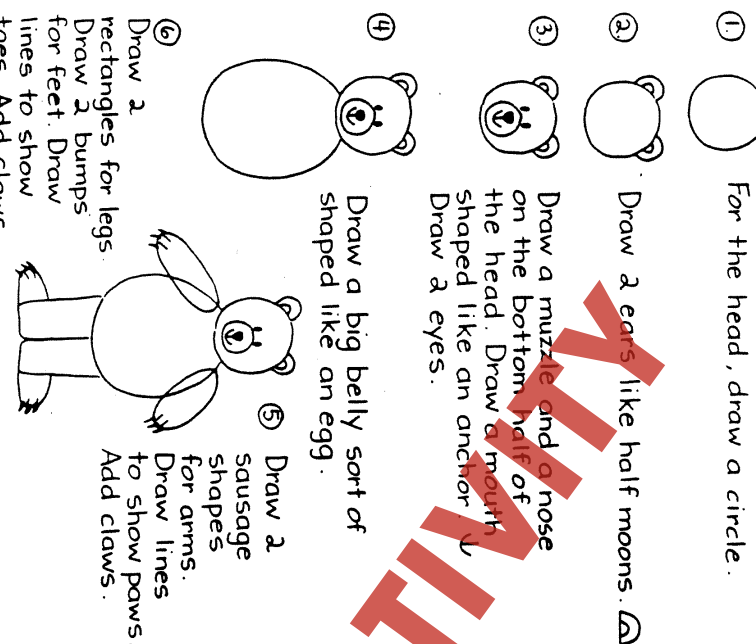
Teacher Input

1. Can you find 3 words that have a short o sound like box? Circle them with a red crayon.
2. Can you find a word that rhymes with cake? Circle it with a blue crayon.
3. Can you find a word that rhymes with pill? Circle it with a yellow crayon.
4. Can you find a word that has a short i sound like ship? Circle it with an orange crayon.
5. How many times can you find the word bears? Circle the word bears with a green crayon.
6. Can you find a word that rhymes with funny? Circle it with a pink crayon.

★ Prepare minimal cues activities on a chart each morning for a group activity.

Art for Kids!

You can draw a cartoon bear from shapes that you know!



Now you try!
Remember, draw lightly at first with a pencil. Go over your pencil lines with a marker. Colour your bear.
Try drawing different kinds of bears.

ART ACTIVITY



Did you know that bears and pandas are mammals?

Bears and pandas feed their milk to their cubs.

Other mammals are cows, foxes, rabbits, dogs, cats, raccoons and deer.