

Using Bear Puppets

- Use the patterns for paper bag bear puppets included in this site to provide opportunities for students to share the information they find about bears with others. Let them write their own puppet scripts using what they have learned.
- Use puppets and/or pictures to teach related vocabulary words:
Kinds of Bears (Alaskan grizzly, Black bear, Brown bear, Cinnamon bear, Grizzly bear, Kodiak bear, Himalayan bear, Mexican grizzly bear, Polar bear), cub, sow, den, hibernation, omnivorous (omnivores) – and carnivorous.
- Have children design scenery which shows the appropriate environment for various types of bears. Make other scenes that show changes in the habitats. Bear puppets can comment on these changes. Have bear puppets tell how they adapt to changes in the environment.
- Use puppets and printed material available in government publications about Smokey the Bear to teach about fire prevention
- Let a toy bear or a puppet tell about Theodore Roosevelt and the original Teddy Bear toys.
- Add a bear to a puppet zoo or puppet circus collection. Use the puppets to tell about how bears have been trained for circus acts and cared for in zoos
- If students are learning about bears at a camp or nature center, let them make and use bear puppets out of burs or other natural materials.
- Have children bring their own stuffed toy bears and use them as puppets. Children can write scripts that tell their own bear's history.
- Have a bear puppet talk with other animal puppets about its food web.
- Time lines about the bear's life cycle can be discussed by puppets.
- Have puppets take parts in children's stories and songs about bears. Note the differences between factual and fiction accounts.





