

# Hibernation Station

## Picture Book Teaching Activity Guide

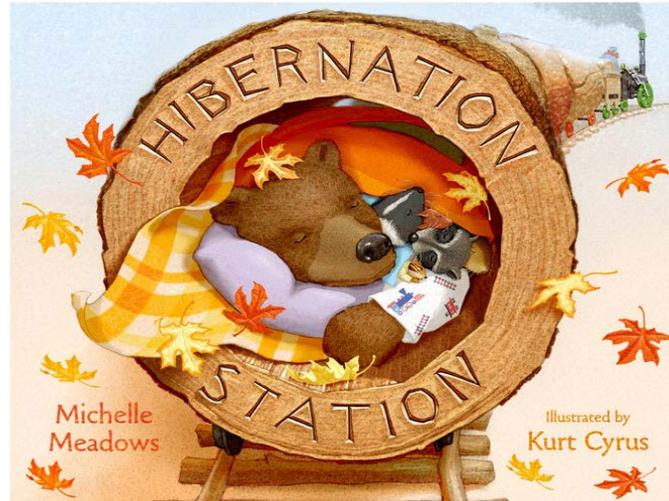
(Pre-k - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

Written by Michelle Meadows

Illustrated by Kurt Cyrus

Published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

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## Book Summary

Hibernation Station is a fun introduction to different types of hibernating animals. The creatures on the train are preparing to snuggle into sleep, but with a passenger list that includes chipmunks, bears, snakes, hedgehogs, groundhogs, frogs, turtles, mice, bats, and more, there's a lot of noise! Will the hibernating critters ever get to sleep? Take a trip to Hibernation Station to find out!

## Story Behind the Story

Michelle Meadows, the author of this book, loves to “hibernate” during the winter. She enjoys curling up with blankets, pillows, snacks, and a good book. She wrote Hibernation Station during a snowy time when she became curious about which animals hibernate.

<http://www.michellemeadows.com>

# Hibernation Station Teaching Activities Linked to Common Core State Standards (CCSS) English Language Arts

**Themes:** Animals, Families, Hibernation, Science, Sleep/Bedtime, Stories in Rhyme/Poetry, Winter; CCSS: Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.

## 1. Anatomy of a Picture Book

CCSS: Name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each in telling the story.

CCSS: Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text.

- ✓ Discuss the role of the author Michelle Meadows (words/text) and the illustrator Kurt Cyrus (pictures) and how both play a role in conveying a story.
- ✓ In a picture book, illustrators use the text as a jumping-off point; the text inspires illustrators to express their creativity through visual pictures. Discuss these specific examples:
  - The Hibernation Station text mentions “warm pajamas”: the illustrator decided what the animals’ pajamas should look like.
  - The text doesn’t describe the train: the illustrator decided what the train should look like. What is the train made of?

## 2. Comprehension

CCSS: Ask and answer questions about key details in the text.

CCSS: Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.

CCSS: Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

- ✓ Discuss the concept of hibernation: Use the Author’s Note at the end of the book.
- ✓ Explain that Hibernation Station is fiction, but it is also informational because it teaches which animals hibernate. Discuss the fictional elements in the context of using imagination: animals wearing pajamas, animals riding a train...
- ✓ Discuss the characters: The characters in Hibernation Station are animals that hibernate. After reading Hibernation Station,

- ask students to name the various animals featured in the book. Make a list of the animals as a group activity.
- ✓ Discuss the setting: What is the setting of this story? What time of year do animals hibernate?
  - ✓ What happens when the animals try to snuggle in to sleep?

### 3. Story Structure

CCSS: Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.

CCSS: Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

- ✓ Every story has a beginning, middle, and end. Use a board or flip chart. As a group, discuss what major events happen in the beginning, the middle, and the end.
- ✓ Every story has a problem. As a group, make a list of the problems the animals encounter.
  - What is the black bear's problem?
  - What is the groundhog's problem?
  - What is the hedgehog babies' problem?
  - What is the chipmunks' problem?
  - What is the frog's problem?
- ✓ What do the bears in charge do to fix the problems?

### 4. Rhyme Time

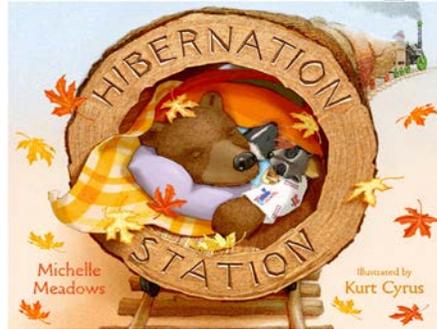
CCSS: Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).

CCSS: Describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.

- ✓ Hibernation Station is a story in rhyme. Discuss the definition of rhyme. Rhyming words end in the same sound.
- ✓ Give students a word from the book and have them brainstorm corresponding rhyming words as a group. FROG: What rhymes with frog? Ask students to name any rhyming words they can think of.
- ✓ Ask students to identify rhyming words through the Hibernation Station matching exercise on the next page.

# Hibernation Station

## Rhyme Time Matching Activity



Draw a line to connect each word on the left side of the page with a rhyming word on the right side of the page. These words are from Hibernation Station, written by Michelle Meadows and illustrated by Kurt Cyrus.

pajamas

frog

roars

light

den

snores

stream

drink

sink

mamas

snack

station

tight

in

alone

back

log

scream

hibernation

moan

## 5. Projects

CCSS: Participate in shared research and writing projects.

CCSS: Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.

CCSS: Write opinion pieces in which students introduce the topic or name the book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure.

CCSS: Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.

CCSS: Compare characteristics of animals that make them alike and different from other animals and nonliving things.

- ✓ Ask students to choose their favorite hibernating animal in Hibernation Station and present facts about the animal and why they made their selection.
- ✓ Ask students to draw a picture of their favorite animal from Hibernation Station.
- ✓ In Hibernation Station, the animals are trying to settle into sleep. Ask students to write about their bedtime routine. What do their pajamas look like? What do they like to do to get to sleep? Do they have a favorite pillow? Or stuffed animal?
- ✓ Discuss animals that hibernate compared with animals that don't hibernate.
- ✓ Parts of Speech: Ask children to identify verbs, nouns, and adjectives in the text of Hibernation Station.
- ✓ Show children [how to make a groundhog mask.](#)
- ✓ Show children [how to make a circle bear.](#)