

Stranger in the Woods

by Carl R Sams II & Jean Stoick

Stranger in the Woods uses real life photographs to tell the story of a group of forest animals who discover that something unusual has appeared in the woods.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *How would you react if you saw a snowman in the middle of the woods?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder who could have put that snowman in the middle of the woods?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Stranger in the Woods*:

- snowflake: one of the small, feathery masses or flakes in which snow falls
- twisting: winding or coiling about something else; encircling; entwining
- twirling: causing to rotate rapidly; spinning, revolving
- crisp: brisk
- twig: a small offshoot from a branch or stem
- glimmering: gleaming
- daybreak: the first appearance of daylight in the morning; dawn
- yawning: extending or stretching wide, as an open and deep space
- meadows: a tract of grassland used for pasture or serving as a hayfield
- cawed: made harsh grating cry of a bird
- rustling: making succession of slight, soft sounds
- mourning: grieving or lamenting over
- trail: a path or track made across a wild region
- pale: not bright or brilliant
- eastern: lying toward or situating in the east
- munching: chewing steadily and vigorously
- muskrat: a large, aquatic, North American rodent having a musky odor
- frightened: thrown into fright; afraid; scared; terrified

Rare Words in *Stranger in the Woods* (continued):

- stomped: to strike or beat with a forcible, downward thrust of the foot
- snorted: breathed violently through the nostrils with a loud, harsh sound
- chattered: talked rapidly in a foolish or purposeless way; jabbered
- chewing: crushing or grinding with teeth; masticate
- antler: one of the solid deciduous horns, usually branched, of an animal of the deer family
- volunteering: offering oneself or one's services for some undertaking or purpose
- scamper: to run or go hastily or quickly
- tunnel: an underground passage
- curious: eager to learn or know

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What season did this story take place in?
- What kind of animal was the blue jay?
- Why do you think the animals were afraid of the snowman?
- What sound did the owl make?
- What kinds of things did the animals like to eat?
- How many different kinds of animals did you see in the book?
- What did they look like?
- What color was the cardinal?
- What was on the snowman that let the animals know that he was friendly?
- What kind of yummy treats did they find?

Do

The Animal Name Game

Read the information in the handout, "Names of Animal Babies, Parents and Groups in This Book" aloud to the class and spend some time talking about the names. Copy the attached animal name game cards and answer key printable so each child has their own sheet. Cut the cards apart and put in a hat. Ask each child to draw a card from the hat and name the baby, parent or group of the animal pictured. Repeat often.

Names of Animal Babies, Parents and Groups

Deer A baby deer is a fawn. Its mother is a doe and its father is a buck. A group of deer is a herd.

Mouse A baby mouse is a kitten or pup. Its mother is a doe and its father a buck. A group of mice is a horde or mischief.

Owl A baby owl is an owlet. Its mother is a hen and its father is an owl. A group of owls is a parliament.

Dove A baby dove is a squab or chick. Its mother is a hen and its father is a cock. A group of doves is a dole.

Muskrat A baby muskrat is a kitten, pinkie or pup. Its mother is a doe and its father is a buck. A group of muskrats is a colony or herd.

Blue Jay A baby blue jay is a chick. Its mother is a hen and its father is a cock. A group of blue jays is a band or party.

Porcupine A baby porcupine is a porcupette. Its mother is a sow and its father is a boar. A group of porcupines is a prickle.

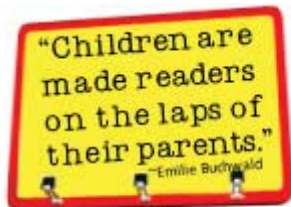
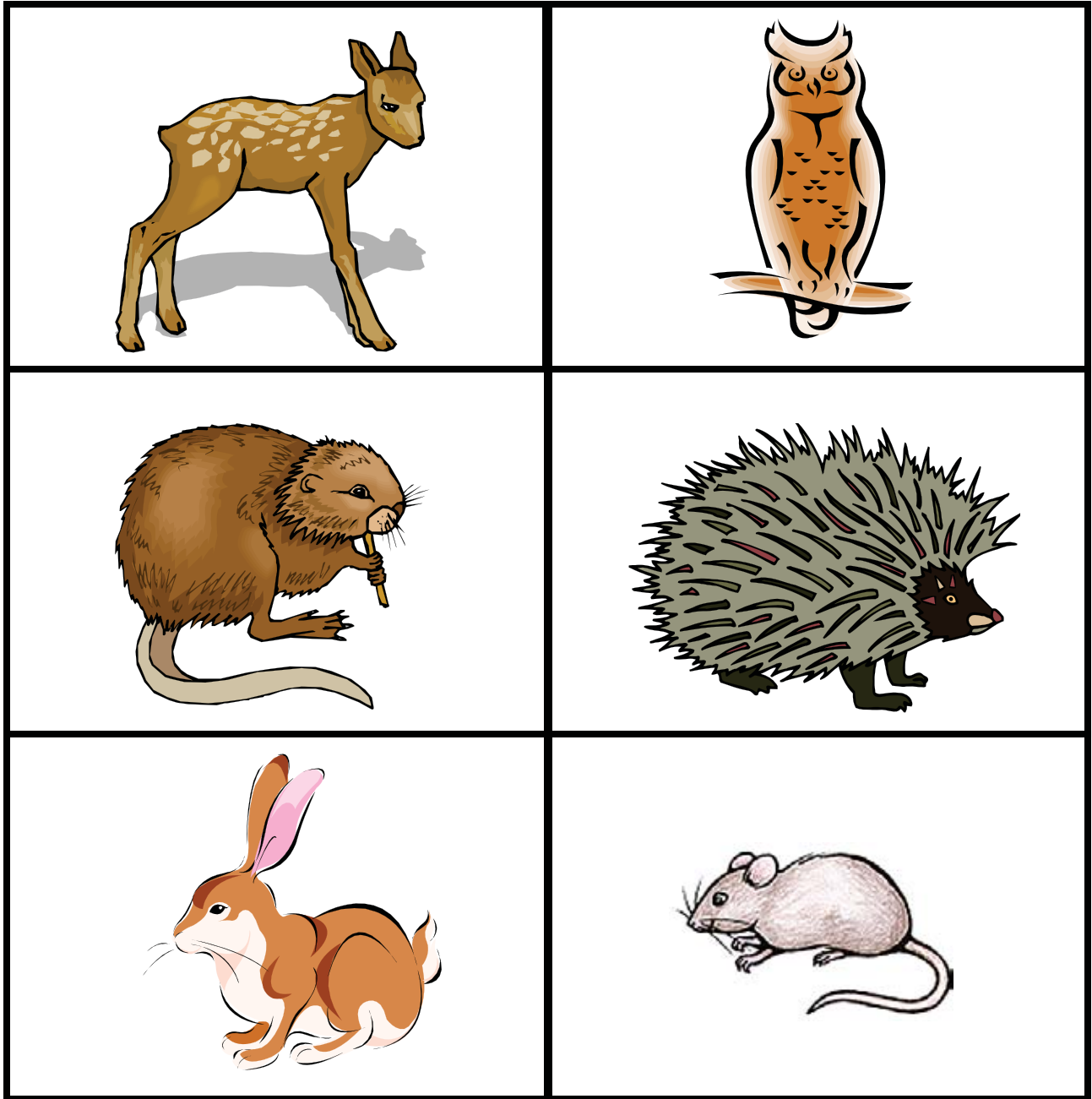
Squirrel A baby squirrel is a pup, kit or kitten. Its mother is a doe and its father is a buck. A group of squirrels is called a dray.

Rabbit A baby rabbit is a bunny or kit. Its mother is a doe or jill and its father is a buck or jack. A group of rabbits is a herd or colony.

Human A baby human is an infant or toddler. Its mother is a woman and its father is a man. A group of humans is a clan, crowd, family or tribe.

My Name: _____

Animal Cards



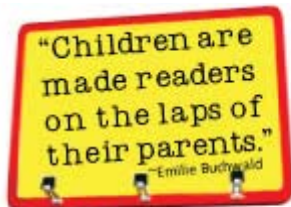
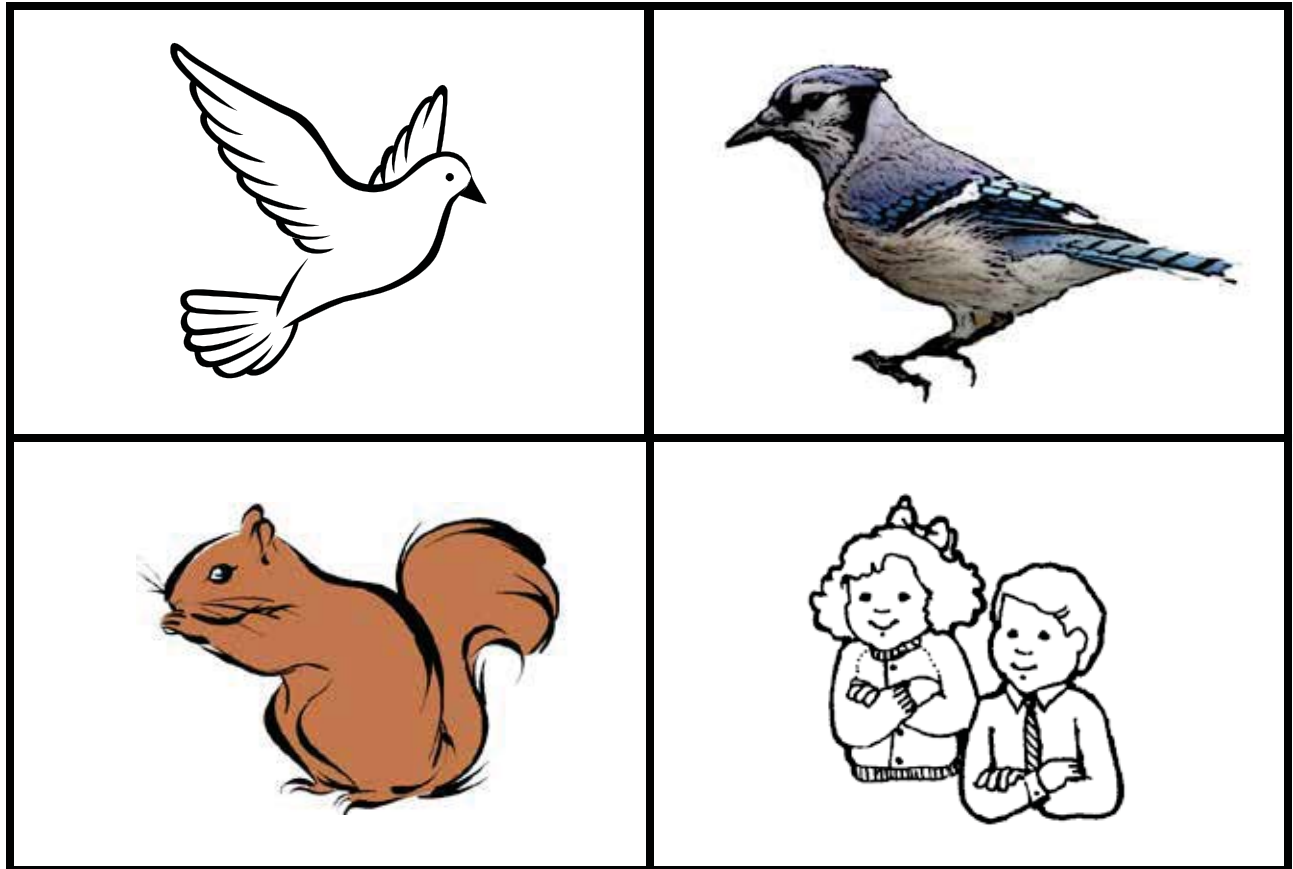
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My Name: _____

Animal Cards



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