

WELCOME BACK SPRING!

STORY ACTIVITY SESSION



LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The "Welcome Back Spring!" activity session can help students:

- appreciate nature, especially the spring season
- learn about some of the animals and plants in the book
- Encourage children to utilize their creativity/ fine art skills through singing, reading music, or doing the book as a small musical play.

ACTIVITY STEPS (APPROX 30-40 MINS):

1. Teacher may begin the session by asking the kids about what they love about spring (e.g., What's your favorite thing about the spring season, and students may say playing outside, playing in the rain, seeing baby animals, etc.?)

2. Teacher then reads the book, [Welcome Back Spring!](#) _ out loud or presents the [Welcome Back Spring Video Book](#):
3. When finished reading, the teacher will ask questions about the story, and then fulfill lesson objectives above by concluding the session with any one of the activities below:
 1. **Welcome Back Spring Coloring Page** (recommended for ages 3-5 years): Each student will receive a color sheet of the animals in the book. Click [here](#) to download color page. Teacher can talk about the animals with the children while they color.
 2. **Welcome Back Spring Fun Facts Matching Game** (5-7)
 - Teacher will display the following facts about some of the unique things in the book on the board, and then have the children match the words to the right answers:
 - a. **Whippoorwill**- This is a bird that is nocturnal, and has forward facing whiskers around its beak (these whiskers are called rictal bristles).
 - b. **Woodchuck**- These animals can burrow underground up to 20 feet and sometimes even more!
 - c. **Purple Lilac**- This is a flower, and its fragrance is used in many perfumes!
 - d. **Grist Mill**- This is a mill that contains a water wheel that helps turn a gear, which in turn helps a stone grind up flour.
 - e. **Garter Snake**- This animal is a non-poisonous reptile that can have up to 20-40 babies at once; however, some scientists have recorded them having up to 100 babies!
 - f. **Spadefoot Toad**- This animal is an amphibian that lives primarily in the Eastern United States (i.e., Pennsylvania), and is currently on the endangered species list. It also grows to be about 1-3 inches in length.

- g. **Wood Turtle**- This animal is a reptile that is also on the endangered species list. It has a shell, and likes to live on both land and around water.
- h. **Dogwood Tree**- This is a tree that can produce both white/pinkish blossoms, and is a popular choice in landscaping.
- i. **Butterfly**- This is a type of insect that has very large wings that are usually very colorful. When these insect are adults, some of them hibernate over the winter.
- j. **Carnivorous Bog Plant**- This is a plant that can be found living in water (i.e., a bog), and eats insects, amphibians, and even mammals..
- k. **Dragonfly**-This is an insect that has been around about 300 million years, and cannot sting or bite.
- l. **Bumblebee**- This is an insect that can beat its wings about 200 times per second. It also pollinates flowers, and has a stinger.
- m. **Hibernation**- This is a time of year when animals go into a dormant, deep sleep state during winter. All of the animals in the book go into this sleep during winter..

3. Sing-Along with the Video Book (recommended for ages 3-7 years):

Pass out the following [sheet music](#) to the children, and have them practice the melody and final verse. Once the kids feel comfortable, then have them sing along with the video book version [here](#). You can also get the sheet music and full picturebook story by purchasing the book on Amazon [here](#).

4. **Welcome Back Spring Classroom Read Aloud Musical**- Create a musical version of the book by assigning different parts of the book to students, and then combine reading aloud, singing, costumes, and props. For example, the teacher can assign one child to be the narrator, another could be Flitzy the butterfly who sings only her parts, and other students can be the other animals/plants in the book such as the Garter snake or a Purple Lilac. The narrator then reads

the non-singing parts, while the students act out the parts with the butterfly. The teacher would then have the students practice the play by reading the book aloud/singing when appropriate.. When ready, the class could present the story to parents or other classes..

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- <https://youtube/Aof4SeemEwE> (youtube direct link)
- The ebook, paperback, and hardback versions of Welcome Back Spring! includes the author's search & find game. If you are interested in purchasing any of these formats, click [here](#).

**For any questions or comments
about this lesson,
please contact Eve at
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