

## Lesson 6: Sundays and Two Big Bears

### Getting Started

#### ✿ Questions to Explore

- How are animals dependent on the environments in which they live?



#### Facts and Definitions

- A **fact** is something that is true and is known to have happened or is known through observation.
- An **opinion** is a personal view or attitude that may not be agreed upon by others.

#### ⦿ Skills

- Conduct research (with assistance) for assigned and self-selected projects from a variety of sources. (LA)
- Use oral and written language to present information in a sequenced, logical manner in order to support the following skills: discuss and sustain conversation on a topic, share information and ideas, recount or narrate, and share written and oral products in a variety of ways. (LA)
- Compose a variety of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama selections on given topics. (LA)
- Share written and oral products. (LA)
- Recognize the difference between fact and opinion. (LA)

#### ✂ Materials

- *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- colored pencils or markers
- journal

### Introduction

Tell your child that today she will learn more about Laura and her life in the Big Woods. Ask your child if she would enjoy living in the Big Woods. Why or why not?

### Reading and Questions

Today your child will read two chapters from the book. After she reads the chapter "Sundays," have your child answer the following questions.

1. Why did Laura and Mary dislike Sundays?

*They had to be very quiet, and they could do very few things.*

2. Is there a day of the week you do not especially enjoy? Why?

*Answers will vary.*

3. What was Laura's favorite picture in the Bible? Why did it appeal to her?

*The picture of Adam naming the animals was her favorite. It appealed to her because Adam looked comfortable and did not have to worry about keeping his clothes clean.*

4. Why do you think wasn't punished when she cried, kicked the chair, and said, "I hate Sunday"?

*Answers will vary.*

5. What was the moral (what did he want Laura and Mary to learn?) of Pa's story?

*Although they may find it hard to be good, they should be grateful that they don't live in a time when it would have been even harder to be good.*

6. What did the family do for Laura on her birthday?

*Pa gave her a birthday spanking. Pa gave her a little wooden man he had carved out of a stick. Ma made her cakes, Mary gave her a dress that she had made for Laura's doll, and Pa sang "Pop Goes the Weasel" for her.*

7. How was her birthday celebration similar to and different from your birthday celebrations?

*Answers will vary.*

## Reading and Questions

After reading the chapter, "Two Big Bears," have your child answer the following questions.

1. Why did Pa go to town?

*He had to trade animal furs for supplies at the store.*

2. How was the way Pa did business at a store different from how your mom or dad does business at a store?

*Answers will vary.*

3. What happened to Ma and Laura when they went out to check on the cow?

*They found a bear in the fence.*

4. How would you compare what happened with Pa in the woods to what happened to Ma at the barn?

*Answers will vary. Your child may mention that Pa thought he was attacking a bear, but it wasn't really a bear, while Ma thought she was hitting the cow and instead hit a bear.*

## Activities

### Activity 1: Life in the Woods vs. Life Today

On the "Life in the Big Woods vs. Life Today" page, your child can record one thing that she learned about how life in the woods was different than her own life today.

### Activity 2: Least Favorite Day of the Week

Discuss the difference between fact and opinion. Explain that a **fact** is something that is true and is known to have happened or is known through observation. An **opinion** is a personal view, attitude, or idea that may not be agreed upon by others and cannot be proven. Read the following statements and ask your child to identify them as fact or opinion.

- Blue is the best color in the world. (opinion)
- Blue is a color. (fact)
- Spaghetti is the most delicious food to have for dinner. (opinion)
- Spaghetti is an Italian food dish. (fact)
- I bought new shoes at the store. (fact)
- I bought the coolest shoes in the entire store. (opinion)

Discuss why Sunday, in Laura's opinion, was the worst day of the week. Ask your child which day, in her opinion, is the worst day of the week. Then using the page, "Least Favorite Day of the Week," ask her to write a five-senses poem that helps describe what she does not like about that day. Share the following

five-senses poem written from Laura's point of view. When your child finishes her poem, encourage her to read her poem aloud.

### Sundays

Sundays look like a blank page in a book.

Sundays sound like a fiddle with no strings.

Sundays taste like a sour apple on your tongue.

Sundays feel like being asked to sit in a corner all day.

Sundays smell like an apple pie that you can't touch.

### **Activity 3: Bear Research**

Let your child conduct research on bears. (A couple of web links are included.) Explain that the research is based on facts about bears. She can record the factual information about bears in the bear paw print on the "Bear Research" page as she collects the information.



#### **Bear Facts**

[www.beyondthepage.com/link/9562/](http://www.beyondthepage.com/link/9562/)



#### **Black Bear**

[www.beyondthepage.com/link/9563/](http://www.beyondthepage.com/link/9563/)

Use the search at the top of the page to find information about other types of bears such as brown bears or polar bears.

Then she can write an acrostic poem using the word BEARS in her journal. Share the following example with her before she begins her poem. When she finishes her poem, encourage her to read it aloud.

Brown bears

Eat berries and nuts

Animalia kingdom

Role in mythology

Sleep through the winter

**Note:** If your child is interested, you should spend time researching the hibernation of bears. Contrary to popular belief, bears don't enter "true" hibernation but rather only enter into semi-hibernation that is more like a deep sleep.

### Wrapping Up

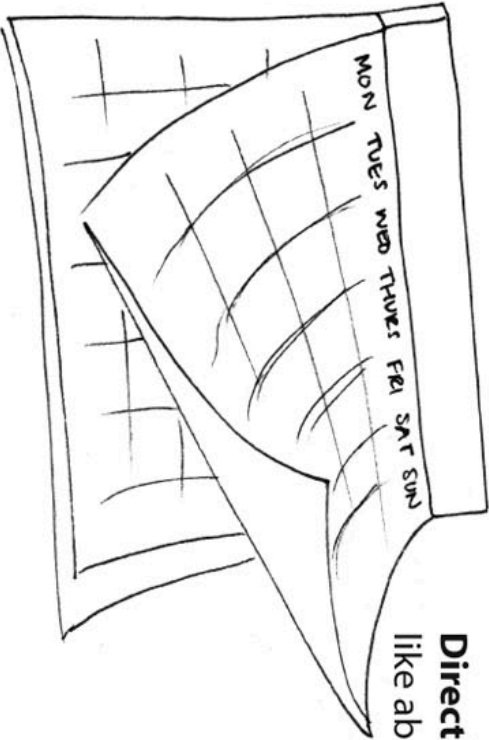
Ask your child to describe the difference between fact and opinion. Ask your child to make two statements that are facts and two that are opinions. Then ask your child to locate a factual statement in the book and a statement that is an opinion.

### Life Application

If possible, visit the bear exhibit at a local zoo. Encourage your child to analyze the habitat of the bears and the habits of the bears. She can also illustrate the bears in their setting.

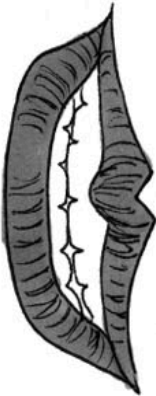
# Least Favorite Day of the Week

**Directions:** Write a Five Senses Poem that helps describe what you do not like about your least favorite day of the week. Read the example below.



## Sundays

Sundays look like a blank page in a book  
Sundays sound like a fiddle with no strings  
Sundays taste like a sour apple on your tongue  
Sundays feel like being asked to sit in a corner all day  
Sundays smell like an apple pie that you can't touch



look like

sound like

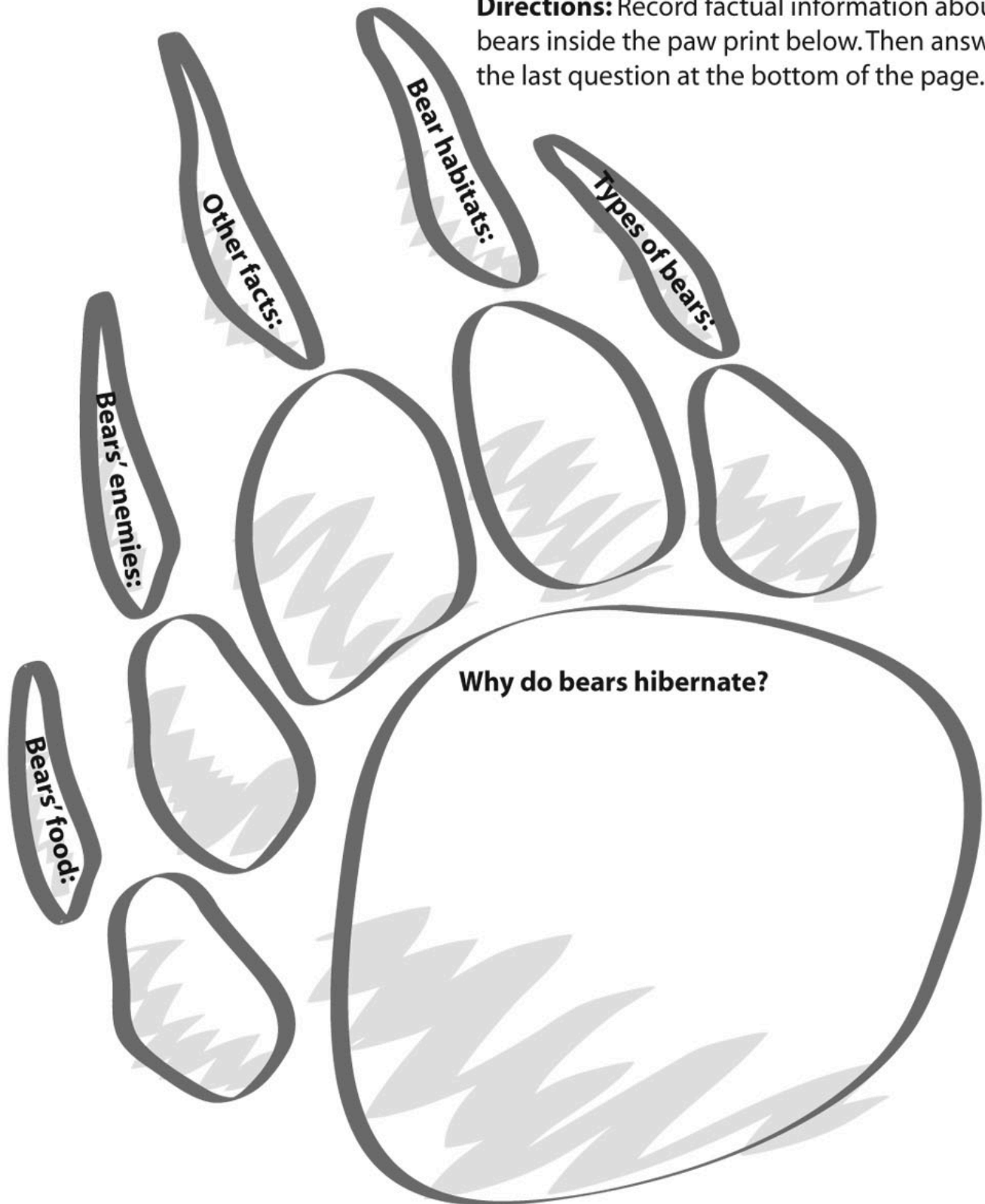
taste like

feel like

smell like

# Bear Research

**Directions:** Record factual information about bears inside the paw print below. Then answer the last question at the bottom of the page.



**How are bears dependent on the environment?** \_\_\_\_\_