

Sisters In Stitches

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Bats, Pumpkins, and Spiders!

Bats, Pumpkins, and Spiders are three of my favorite themes to study in October. Before presenting any new information, I love to hear what the children already know about the topic. While trying to elicit the information, it is important that I not ask closed ended questions that require a one word answer. I try to give the children a format so that they answer with a complete sentence. I have made up a chant entitled, "Tell me what you know", that allows each individual student to share, it can be used with any theme being studied.

Tell Me What You Know

Child's Name, Child's Name, tell me what you know. _____ are the subject. Ready, set, go!

Child answers: I know that _____ are _____.

Write the children's ideas on a white board or chart paper. Allow each child to have a turn.

After determining what the children know, you can introduce new information by exploration, videos, books, and field trips. Also, check with your local Parks and Recreation Department, sometimes they have a program they can bring to your school or center. Our local Parks and Recreation Department had someone that rescued bats and often brought a baby bat and slide show to share with the children. This was a great resource.

Here are some fun facts and a favorite web site for each of the three themes.



Bats

- Bats have a thumb and four fingers.
- The bat's fingers are very long compared to it's body. If we would have fingers like a bat, they would be longer than our legs.
- Bats sleep upside down.

www.kidzone.ws/animals/bats/index.htm

This site has activities and resources for Pre-school age through 4th grade.

Pumpkins

- Native Americans dried strips of pumpkin and wove them into mats. (This would be a great art activity – even just using paper.)
- Pumpkin flowers are edible.
- The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed 1,140 pounds.

www.Urbanext.uiuc.edu/pumpkins/

This site has fun activities for children.



Spiders

- Spiders can grow a new leg if they lose one.
- Some spiders live underground and catch their prey by jumping out at them.
- Tarantulas look scary but they are not poisonous.

www.sedl.org/scimath/pasopartners/spiders/welcome.html

This site includes 7 lesson plans.

After presenting the new information, brainstorm with the children what they have learned. Record their answers and compare the before and after lists. This is also a great time to make a class book.

Featured Items

- **5 Fat Spiders Felt Set**
- **Pumpkin Life Cycle Mitt**
- **Five Little Pumpkins Felt Set**
- **Color Bats Felt Set**
- **Tommy Turkey Felt Set**

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We will be at the following conferences:

October 7, 2006	ACSI	Portland, OR
October 19, 2006	SDE Make Every K Moment Count	Bellevue, WA
October 21, 2006	Childcare Resouces	SeaTac, WA
October 26-28, 2006	WAEYC	Bellevue, WA
November 8-11, 2006	NAEYC	Atlanta, GA
November 29-30, 2006	BER Kindergarten	Bellevue, WA

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