

LIVING IN THE COUNTRY

By - Lise Hawkins and Ivor Sinfield

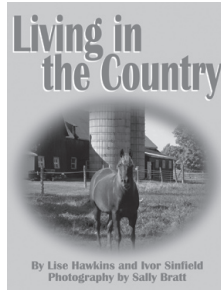
Photography by - Sally Bratt

Genre - Report

Set 19 - 471 Words

Building Anticipation - Setting the Context

Have the children view pictures of the country. Include animals, buildings and landscapes of the country. Elicit from the students that they are viewing pictures of the country. Introduce the word *rural* and its meaning. How is the country different from the city? How are the two the same? You may want to record their answers on a Venn diagram.



Introduction

Have a student read the title of the book, *Living in the Country*. What kinds of things do you think we will read about in this book? Record the students' answers. Guide the students to the Table of Contents page.

Review the use of the contents page and read the headings from the book. Compare the Table of Contents to the ideas the students generated. Ask students to read to discover what it is like to live in the country. How is it the same as the way they live? How is it different?

Discussion - Book Talk

Right there questions:

- What is another name for the country?
- How do children who live in the country get to school?
- How are houses in the country different from houses in the city?
- How do children travel short distances?
- What are some things you would see as you drive in the country?

Think and search questions:

- What are the names of the festivals people in the country attend?
- What kinds of roads would you find in the country?
- Why aren't there many parks in the country?
- What can children do instead of going to the park?

On your own questions:

- Do you live in the country?
- Talk about a visit you had to the country.
- If you don't live in the country, would you like to live there? Why?
- What would be some advantages and disadvantages to living in the country?
- What would be the best reason to live in the country? Why?
- Close your eyes and imagine you are in the country. What sounds would you hear?
- What sounds would you hear in the city?
- Would a skyscraper be a good building for the country? Why or why not?

Creative Response – Independent Practice

Take a Field Trip

Go on a field trip to the closest rural area and have students take pictures of what they see. Students write about their experience back at school and make a class book with accompanying pictures. Use the headings in the book to guide their research.

Writing Workshop

Take some time to read Real Estate ads from the paper. Ask the students to be real estate agents. Give each student a picture of a home in the country and ask them to write a paragraph describing the home and the benefits of living in the country.

The second writing activity can be an acrostic poem. First brainstorm words that describe the country. Use the reproducible master as an outline to write the poem and to draw and list something they like best about living in the country.

Make a Tape

Divide students into small groups. Tell them they have been asked by children in the city to send a tape of sounds of the country. Give them a blank tape and tape recorder and ask them to make a tape of country sounds.

Read Aloud and Poetry Connections

Barn Dance by Bill Martin Jr. and Hohn Archambault, Henry Holt and Co., 1986.

Big Mama's by Donald Crews, Greenwillow Books, 1991.

Country Crossing by Jim Aylesworth, MacMillan Co., 1991.

I Went to the Farm by Ruth Miller, Kids Can Press, 2000.

Night in the Barn by Faye Gibbons, Morrow Junior Books, 1995.

Silver Seeds by Paul Paolli and Dan Brewer, Viking Books, 2001.

The Train Ride by June Crebbin, Scholastic Canada, 1995.

Learning about Language – Focused Teaching

High Frequency Words - city, people, small, large, through, buy, learn
Interest Words - rural, festivals, cyclists, supermarkets, roadside, musicals, playhouse, entertainment, recreation

Word Families and Letter Clusters - Plural: country, countries

Structural Features of Words - Compound words: roadside, supermarket, playhouse

Text Features - Index - Glossary - Table of Contents

Reproducible Master - Living in the Country

Write an acrostic poem about living in the country.

C _____

O _____

U _____

N _____

T _____

R _____

Y _____

Draw something that you like about living in the country.



In the country I like _____