

Lesson: Produce work that follows the conventions of particular genres – learning logs.

Fourth Grade Objective: 4.091 enrichment

Lesson

1. Learning logs are an opportunity for you to record what you have learned. Learning logs can be organized in many different ways depending on what you learn. For example, a learning log may be a picture or diagram to show what you learned about the characteristics of a certain animal; it may be a list of steps that show how to make something; it could also be a list of facts that show your learning by categorizing information into like items; it could also be a summary to show the major ideas you learned about a specific topic.
2. In this lesson, you will practice how to make a categorized list of what you learned after reading a nonfiction selection about black bears. This categorized list will be your learning log as it will demonstrate the facts you learned and how you organized these facts to show like characteristics. First, you will need the nonfiction selection. This selection is on the internet.
 - a. After accessing the internet, enter in the following website: www.kidsplanet.org
 - b. Click on *Get the Facts*
 - c. Under North America, click on *Black Bear*
3. The strategy we will use to help you summarize what you learned in your own words is listed below:
 - 1) Read the article.
 - 2) Put reading material away.
 - 3) Make a list of what you remember.
 - 4) Reread the article.
 - 5) Add or delete items on your list for clarification
 - 6) Make categories for the items on your list AND divide the items into these categories.

Sample

1. I read through the first section only in the article.
2. I put the article away and then made a list of what I remembered from reading.
3. The following is the list I made:
 - Black bear is found only in North America
 - It is the smallest of the three types found in North America
 - Black bears have sharp claws
 - Black bears found in the east are usually all black
 - Black bears found in the west are black, but also have other colors like brown, cinnamon, and blond
4. That is all I remember from my first reading of the first section. So, I reread the section and added and deleted items as needed.
5. This is what my list looks like now.
 - Black bear is found only in North America
 - It is the smallest of the three types found in North America
 - ~~Black bears have sharp claws~~
 - Black bears found in the east are usually all black
 - Black bears found in the west are black, but also have other colors like brown, cinnamon, and blond
 - Black bears have *short* claws that help them climb trees
 - Female black bears are smaller than male black bears
 - Males weigh between 150-300 pounds
 - In the wild, they can live for about 25 years

6. Now I am going to make categories for my list. I notice that all of my facts describe bears. Most facts describe the physical appearance of black bears and a few describe information about their life. So, I decided to make two categories: Physical Appearance and Habitat. Finally, I divided my facts into each category. The following is my learning log:

Learning Log – May 7, 2008

The Black Bear

Physical Appearance

- It is the smallest of three types of bears found in North America
- Black bears are usually all black, but some have other colors like brown, cinnamon, and blond
- Black bears have short claws
- Males weigh between 150-300 pounds
- Females are smaller than males

Habitat

- Black bear is only found in North America
- In the wild of North America, they can live for about 25 years

Try these on your own!

1. Read any of the other sections in the Black Bear article (Diet, Population, Range, Behavior, Reproduction, Threats, Legal Status/Protection) and follow the steps in this lesson to create your own learning log.
2. Go to the same website (www.kidsplanet.org), click on **Get the Facts**, and choose any animal you would like to learn more about. Follow the steps in this lesson to create your own learning log.
3. Go to www.wildwnc.org/education/animals, click on any animal you would like to learn more about. Follow the steps in this lesson to create your own learning log.

Check how well you did by using the following rubric:

4	Beyond
3	Meets Expectations - Learning log shows accurate information - Facts learned are written in your own words - Categories are included to show how facts are similar - Facts are included under appropriate category
2	Inconsistent
1	Not Present