

Overview:

Students listen to a story about Alaska and describe how sunlight changes there.

Objectives:

The student will draw a picture of how the sunlight looks during different seasons.

Targeted Alaska Grade Level Expectations:

Science

- [3] SD4.2 The student demonstrates an understanding of the theories regarding the origin and evolution of the universe by recognizing that objects have properties, locations, and movement that can be observed and described.
- [3] SA1.1 The student demonstrates an understanding of the processes of science by asking questions, predicting, observing, describing, measuring, classifying, making generalizations, inferring, and communicating.

Materials:

- *Arctic Lights, Arctic Nights* by Debbie Miller
- Science journal

Activity Procedure:

1. The teacher draws a huge sun on the board. Ask students to tell what they know about the sun. Write responses on the sun.
2. Read the book "*Arctic Lights, Arctic Nights*" and discuss the story. Ask students: What happened in the story? How did the sunlight look in the illustrations? Why does the sunlight change at different times of the year? How is the story like the area you live in? Have students add any ideas they now have about the sun on the sun on the board.
3. Show students how Earth moves around the sun by shining a flashlight on a globe and moving the globe around. Discuss which seasons are taking place as Earth moves.
4. In their science journal, have each student draw a picture of what sunlight looks like in their area during the four seasons. Have them divide a page into four sections and label them spring, summer, fall and winter. They should draw a picture in the appropriate section.
5. Ask students to share their journal with two other students and explain why they drew the pictures they did.

Extension Ideas:

1. Have students paint a watercolor picture of their favorite season showing the sunlight.
2. Read the following books aloud: *Sun Up, Sun Down* by Gail Gibbons, and *What Makes Day and Night* by Franklyn Branley.