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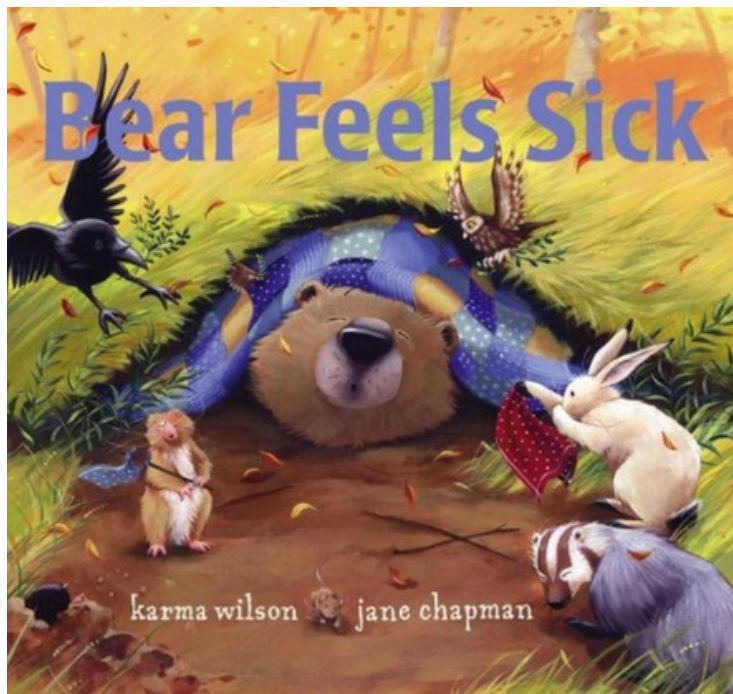
Museum of Northwest Art

Woven Bear Blankets Inspired by Todd Thorton

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY
DESIGNED BY TAMMI LEMPE

Description

This project allows an opportunity to highlight the work of artist Todd Horton and to explore the concept of hibernation. Students will read *Bear Feels Sick* and create their own mixed media art pieces based on the blanket featured in the book.



Age: Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten

Lesson Duration: 1 hour

Subjects: Natural Science & Animal Behavior



Student example

Materials

- *Bear Feels Sick* by Karma Wilson or [this video](#) of the book read aloud
- Mat board or cardboard with rubber bands (approximately 5 per board)
- Watercolor crayons
- Water cups
- Brushes
- Pipe cleaners
- Yarn
- Ribbons
- Examples of Todd Horton's work (included)

Instructions

- 1) As a class, read *Bear Feels Sick* by Karma Wilson. Allow time for students to engage in discussion and share their knowledge on bears, hibernation as well as to make personal connections to the bear (i.e. "What makes you feel better when you're sick?). You can also introduce Todd Horton's work at this time.
- 2) Students will then draw on the matboards using watercolor crayons.
- 3) Once they are finished drawing, they will add water to their paper using watercolor brushes. This transforms the crayon drawings into watercolor paints.
- 4) Finally, they will use pipe cleaners, yarn, and fabric ribbons to weave through the rubber bands and create a mixed media "blanket." It helps to model the simple concept of moving the pipe cleaners over the rubber band, then under the rubber band, and continuing until they reach the last rubber band.



Painted matboard with rubber bands:
Ready for weaving!



Student working on her "blanket"
Image Source: Tammi Lempe



Student weaving
Source: Tammi Lempe

Vocabulary

Hibernation, Watercolor, Weaving

Further Exploration

Check out the work of artist Todd Horton. Horton creates beautiful paintings from his houseboat on in Bow, Washington. Horton finds inspiration from the animals and landscape around his home. As you explore his artworks, you might recognize many of the animals we met in *Bear Feels Sick!*



Ranging Far and Wide With the Moon as Her Guide, Todd Horton



Queen of the Meadow, Todd Horton



redwing blackbird, Todd Horton



her eyes were the forest's friend, Todd Horton

Learning and State Standards

Fulfills **Washington State Arts Learning Standards:**

- **(VA:Cr2.1.K)** Through experimentation, build skills in various media and approaches to art-making.