



Beneath the Sun

by Melissa Stewart

About the Book

How do the animals around us survive on the hottest days of the year? Journey to a field where an earthworm loops its long body into a ball underground, a desert where a jackrabbit loses heat through its oversized ears, and a seashore where sea stars hide in the shade of a seaweed mat. Luminous watercolors and lyrical language introduce young readers to the strategies our animal neighbors use to beat the heat.

Before You Read

- Ask children why the sun is important for us and other animals.
- Ask children what they think wild animals do on hot days. Have them consider a rabbit, an eagle, and a salamander.

As You Read

Ask children to think about how an animal's body features affect how it survives on hot, sunny days.

After You Read

- Review the different ways animals react to hot weather. How many find shelter? How many stop being active? How many do not change their behavior?
- Ask children to list the four habitats mentioned in the book. Do they see any connection between an animal's habitat and how it behaves on hot, sunny days?
- Have the children choose an animal from the book and draw a picture showing what it does when the sun beats down. Ask them to explain their pictures to the rest of the group.

Follow-up Activities

If time permits, students may want to do some of the related Activity Pages available on the author's website: www.melissa-stewart.com.