

## Core Skills Analysis

### History & Environment

- Explored the historical timeline of wildlife presence and changes in the Catskill Mountains region.
- Learned about different species that have inhabited the Catskill Mountains over time and their ecological roles.
- Understood human impact on wildlife within the Catskills, including conservation efforts and environmental changes.
- Gained an appreciation for regional biodiversity and the importance of preserving natural habitats.

### Tips

To deepen understanding of wildlife history in the Catskill Mountains, consider planning an experiential field trip to local natural preserves or museums with exhibits on regional ecology. Encourage the student to create a timeline or illustrated booklet depicting key wildlife events or species changes in the Catskill area. Introduce discussions around how climate, human settlement, and conservation efforts interact to shape wildlife populations. Incorporate hands-on activities such as tracking local animal signs or simple nature journaling to foster close observation and personal connection to the environment.

### Book Recommendations

- [Wildlife of the Catskill Mountains](#) by John S. Tompkins: An accessible guide to the variety of animal species native to the Catskills, blending natural history with vivid illustrations.
- [The History of New York's Catskills](#) by Paul Smart: A detailed look into the development of the Catskills region including its natural landscape and environmental changes over centuries.
- [A Natural History of the Catskills](#) by Daniel Smiley: Explores the ecological and historical background of the Catskills, offering insights into its wildlife and natural heritage.

### Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.3: Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.7: Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly and to solve problems efficiently.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.4: Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details.

### Try This Next

- Create a visual timeline poster charting changes in wildlife species from past centuries to today.
- Write a short story or diary entry from the perspective of a native animal adapting to environmental changes in the Catskills.

### Growth Beyond Academics

This activity supports curiosity about nature and history, fostering respect and empathy for wildlife and the environment. It can encourage patience and observational skills, as students reflect on slow ecological changes and human impact over time. There is also potential for building a sense of stewardship and connection to place.