

# Cozy Caves: Hibernating Bear Art

## Materials Needed:

- Paper plates (1 per child)
- Brown washable paint or brown crayons/markers
- Paintbrushes (if using paint)
- Brown construction paper
- Child-safe scissors (optional, for adult or supervised use)
- Glue sticks or liquid glue
- Cotton balls
- Googly eyes (optional)
- Black marker
- Pictures or simple book about bears and hibernation

## Lesson Procedure:

### 1. Introduction: What is Hibernation? (5-10 minutes)

- Gather your student and look at pictures of animals in winter, especially bears.
- Ask: "What do bears do when it gets cold and snowy outside?"
- Introduce the word "hibernate." Explain simply: "Hibernate means some animals go into a deep, long sleep all winter long to stay safe and warm when there isn't much food. Bears find cozy dens or caves to sleep in."
- Read a short, simple story or look at more pictures about a hibernating bear.

### 2. Art Activity: Making the Hibernating Bear Cave (15-20 minutes)

- **Create the Cave:** Give the child a paper plate. Explain this will be the outside of the bear's cave. Have them paint or color the \*bottom\* (curved side) of the paper plate brown or grey. Let it dry if painted.
- **Create the Bear:** While the cave dries (or before painting if preferred), help the child make a simple bear shape. You can:
  - Draw a simple bear shape (like a teddy bear) on brown paper for them to cut out (assist as needed).
  - Pre-cut bear shapes.
  - Alternatively, have the child make brown thumbprints on a piece of paper and draw legs/ears on it later to be the bear.Add googly eyes (optional) and draw a simple nose/mouth with the black marker.
- **Assemble the Scene:** Flip the dry paper plate over (rim facing up, like a shallow bowl). This is the inside of the cave! Glue the bear shape inside the 'cave'.
- **Add Snow:** Glue cotton balls around the rim/edge of the paper plate cave opening to look like snow.

### 3. Art Appreciation & Discussion (5 minutes)

- Look at the finished artwork together.
- Ask questions: "What color is your bear's cave?" "Is the bear awake or asleep? Why?" "What is the white fluffy stuff around the cave opening?" (Snow!) "Is snow soft or hard?" (Talk about texture). "What shape is the cave opening?" (Circle/Oval).

- Point out the different textures: smooth paper plate, bumpy paint/crayon, soft cotton balls.

#### **4. Conclusion & Clean-up (5 minutes)**

- Review: "What does hibernate mean?" (Long winter sleep). "Who did we make hibernating in a cave today?" (A bear!)
- Praise their creativity and effort.
- Clean up the art supplies together. Display their cozy cave artwork!

#### **Differentiation/Extension:**

- **Simpler:** Provide pre-cut bear shapes and pre-painted/colored paper plates. Focus on gluing skills.
- **More Challenging:** Encourage the child to draw their own bear shape. Add details inside the cave (e.g., draw some rocks or leaves). Talk about other animals that hibernate (bats, hedgehogs, some squirrels).