



Building a Cave

Standard Connection:

- ELA.RL.PK4.9
- ELA.W.PK4.1b
- M.G.PK4.2
- M.MD.PK4.2
- S.ES.PK4.2b
- S.LS.PK4.3
- PD.FM.PK4.4
- PD.FM.PK4.5

Enduring Understanding(s):

- Color can be used to communicate ideas, thoughts, and feelings.

Essential Question(s):

- How are colors used to communicate ideas, thoughts, and feelings?

Materials	Vocabulary	Books
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Lion and the Little Red Bird</i> • pretend or child-made animals • images of caves (see Resource) • Beautiful Stuff 	<p>cave: a natural hole in the earth</p> <p>habitat: the natural environment of an animal or plant</p> <p>shelter: a place to protect someone or something from weather or danger</p>	

Intro to Centers	
Preparation: <i>Set up materials.</i>	
"In <i>The Lion and the Little Red Bird</i> , the lion lived in a cave . What do you notice?"	Show illustrations. Children respond.
"Here are images of real caves . What do you notice?"	Show images. Children respond.
" Caves can be shelters and habitats for animals. Why would a cave be a good habitat for an animal?"	Children respond.
"Today in Blocks, you can construct caves with these materials. What do you notice?"	Show materials. Children respond.

During Centers:

Encourage children to research caves and incorporate what they learn into their designs. Compare and contrast the dragon and the cave in *The Seven Chinese Sisters* with the lion and the cave in *The Lion and the Little Red Bird*. Encourage children to label the parts of their caves. Encourage children to use strategies from *Ramps and Inclines* and *Building Block Towers*. Compare and contrast constructing caves to constructing stores, playgrounds, neighborhoods, etc. Encourage children to describe attributes of materials (what is heavier, these blocks or those boxes?). Support children in noticing and describing geometric shapes of blocks used and that are created as the cave is built.

Guiding Questions During Centers:

- How is your cave similar to or different from the lion's cave?
- How is the lion's cave similar to or different from Jonathan's house in *One Dark Night* or the hedge in *Rabbits and Raindrops*?
- Why is this a good habitat/shelter for _____?
- How is building a cave similar to or different from building a block tower?

Thinking and Feedback:

Invite children to share their processes. Encourage children to describe any challenges they might have encountered.

Documentation:

Collect samples of the children's work as well as photographs of their process; use the documentation to launch a discussion during Thinking and Feedback.

Provocation:

Provide large cardboard boxes for children to use in constructing their caves.

Differentiation/Accommodation:

For Intro to Centers, children with limited verbal skills can use a pre-programmed voice output device to answer questions about the story. (Keep in mind these will likely be closed-ended questions, as those are easiest to program into devices.) This can also be used to help students answer Guiding Questions. During Centers, provide geometric shapes for children to use as reference when designing their caves.