

THE GREAT FUZZ FRENZY

K-3

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Story Summary

It's big. It's round. It's *really* fuzzy. But...what is it? Whatever it is, there's no end of trouble when this big, round, *really* fuzzy thing tumbles into the prairie dog town. Who would have guessed that its arrival would cause a great fuzz frenzy? And what will happen when all the fuzz is gone? This adventure about a most unlikely object that brings out greed, teamwork, and creativity in a group of prairie dogs will get everyone thinking about problem-solving and cooperation.

Objectives

1. The children will develop an understanding for how a simple object can be viewed in different ways.
2. The children will develop an understanding of what can be accomplished through teamwork.
3. The children will develop an understanding of how greed can impact on a group.

Before viewing the video

Show the children a tennis ball or a picture of a tennis ball. Ask them to imagine different ways this object could be used if they had no idea what it was. Tell them that they will be seeing a video about a tennis ball that drops into the lives of a group of prairie dogs. They will see how creative the prairie dogs can be as they examine this new thing. They will also see how unhappy many of these prairie dogs became. Ask the children to think about different ways of solving the "Fuzz Frenzy" problem.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. Why were the prairie dogs so puzzled when this big round fuzzy thing fell into prairie-dog town?
2. How did little Pip Squeak find a way to use this fuzzy thing?
3. What did the other prairie dogs do when Big Bark tried to take charge?
4. Look at the pictures of the ways the prairie dogs used the fuzz. Tell us about your favorite.
5. Why was this a “fuzz frenzy.”
6. How did the prairie dogs feel after the big round thing was fuzzless?
7. What happened to their town that used to be so peaceful?
8. What happened to them after they fell asleep so exhausted?
9. How did the prairie dogs feel about Big Bark’s actions while they were sleeping?
10. Why did they decide to help Big Bark?
11. How did the prairie dogs cooperate with each other to help Big Bark?
12. What do think was more important than having the fuzz?
13. Do you think having the fuzz was a good thing for the prairie dogs or a not-so-good thing?

Activities

1. Ask the children to select an ordinary, everyday object and develop a creative and non-traditional way of using it. This can be a combined written language and artistic activity.
2. Develop a vocabulary list to describe the feelings of the prairie dogs when they had the fuzz, when they were fighting over the fuzz and when they had no more fuzz. Have the children draw an illustration of one of these phases of the book and write a descriptive sentence.
3. Encourage a cooperative group experience to develop a collage of a favorite scene. Assign a specific task to each group member so they can see the whole develop from small parts.
4. Encourage a discussion about feelings related to greed. Was there someone in their lives who was bigger or stronger who took more than a fair share? How do friends feel when this happens? Develop strategies to deal with this.