



Title: Over in a River Flowing Out to the Sea

Author: Marianne Berkes

Age Range: 6-9

Topics/Themes: Animals in the United States

Vocabulary: calf, smolt, hatchlings

See video of this book read aloud here: [Over in a River Flowing Out to the Sea](#)

I. INTRODUCTION (PREP QUESTIONS)

- What do you see on the cover?
- What are the birds standing in?
- What is the difference between a river and the sea? What creatures might you see in the river? What creatures might you see in the sea?

II. INTEGRATIVE STRATEGIES

a. DURING READING SESSION

- Have students act out the motions of each animal as you read.
- P.2 Have students infer what a cattail is. Also called “Corn Dog Grass” Have you ever seen a cattail before?
- Have students predict how many creatures will be on the next page.
- P.3 Have students infer what a smolt is by using the illustration.
- P.6 Have students infer what a kit is by using the illustration.

b. POST READING SESSION

- Review book with students:
- Show students on each page what part of the United States these living creatures are prevalent.
- What were the ten main animals called as babies? Which one does not have a “baby” name?
- Go back through book with students and have them help you pick-out the rhyming words on each page.
- Think of an action verb for each hidden animal to show how it might behave i.e.: an alligator *snaps*!
- Use map on last page to show students where all the animals are located across the United States. Show students the key to the map and explain to them how to use it.
- Was this story fiction or non-fiction? In the back of the story read to students the “Fact or Fiction” portion.
- If time permits, share Rivers Matter!
- On each page is a hidden animal. Work with students to find that hidden animal. Why did the author pair the bear with the salmon but not with manatee?
- Ask students to tell you their favorite animal. Read more about that animal in the back of the book.