

READY TO READ 4

ON THE *Savanna*



TEACHER'S GUIDE

Gather 'Round
HOMESCHOOL



WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY RACHEL GUERRERO

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Welcome to Ready to Read Book 4: *On The Savanna!* If you are new to Gather 'Round Homeschool, I wanted to take a few moments to explain the philosophy, the backstory, and the how behind this curriculum and approach.



WHO AM I?

My name is Rebecca Spooner. I have no special accreditation, and I have no certificates of qualification lining my walls. I am just a homeschool parent like you. I am a second-generation homeschooler who is following my mother's footsteps. I have lived and breathed homeschooling for as long as I can remember. As soon as my kids were (probably not quite) old enough, I had a schedule and a plan and a full curriculum prepared for them. I jumped in with both feet, and I floundered and sputtered and made countless mistakes. Homeschooling my kids was harder than I had ever imagined: there were so many kids and so many curriculum options to choose from. Slowly but surely, my vision of my kids gathered around me like a flock of little chicks faded into the realm of naive and impossible. I began a blog and reviewed curriculum and bounced from one thing to the next (sorry, kids). Eventually, my little blog grew and I began traveling, speaking, and writing books, and I even wrote my first Bible curriculum: *More Than Words*. My dream was to continue with the direction I was in—review curriculum, blog, and write. But all that changed in early 2019.

It started with a healthy dose of discontent. Why on earth was I settling? I was choosing curriculum that was suiting my kids but killing me with all the projects and activities and one-on-one (as I bounced from child to child like a Ping-Pong ball), or I was choosing curriculum that was suiting me and compromising a love of learning to keep my sanity. No one was winning; this couldn't be it. One random weekend, as I was praying and asking God, "What now? What now for my business? What now for our homeschool?" I felt like the question was bounced back at me: "What if you could teach all your kids together?" I believe that when Jesus said He came to bring life and life abundantly, He was thinking about our homeschools and families, too. He came to bring life and joy and wonder and curiosity and love of learning—if we learn anything from scripture, it is that God is unpredictable and wild and adventurous and exciting. He cares about our homes and He cares about our relationships with one another. With that one question and with my pencil poised, the entire vision for Gather 'Round Homeschool was born.

ONE UNIT THAT TIES IN ALL YOUR SUBJECTS FOR ALL YOUR KIDS, TAILORED, CUSTOMIZED, EASY, A LAUNCHPAD FOR ADVENTURE AND LEARNING, KINDLE FOR THE FIRE, AND ABOVE ALL ELSE: ALL ABOUT HIM AND ALL FOR HIM.

Within one month, we were taking preorders for something I was still working out in my head, and we now launch a brand-new unit every single month.

WHAT IS THE GATHER 'ROUND DIFFERENCE?

I have personally tried and used or looked at nearly every curriculum on the market, and I can tell you that there are so many unique things about Ready to Read. This program is designed to be the first step to a love of learning, with engaging illustrations and fun activities. While our main units will include a small Pre-Reader notebook to keep your young learner engaged with the family, this unit will propel your student on to reading and numeracy success. We bring in Charlotte Mason elements: no busy work, narration, art, summation, memory work, and a feast of education.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This is Book 4 of Ready to Read, containing 9, 4-day weeks. The theme for this book is the savannas of Africa. Your child will learn about many amazing animals of the savanna and some important environmental concepts that impact savanna life. This theme is woven into all the subjects and skills your child will practice each day. Before each week begins, you'll find a page which provides a snapshot of the week. At the end of each week, we provide a review opportunity with simple conversation questions and an idea for an active game. You can use this review as a fun way to practice the skills your kindergartener has learned throughout the week.

A DAY WITH GATHER 'ROUND READY TO READ

READ FROM THE TEACHER'S GUIDE (5–15 minutes)

Sit down together with your child and read the lesson for the day. Each lesson is just one page. Encourage them to point to the pictures on the page and notice details about the science topic that are made clear with vivid images. Read the Bible passage, and then talk about its real-life application. You can also read one or more picture books while you are sitting together. This is a wonderful open-and-go curriculum for you and your student to bond over.

WORK IN THE STUDENT NOTEBOOK (20–30 minutes)

Once you have read from the Teacher's Guide, get out the student notebook, where you will work through the four pages that go with each lesson together. You will need to read the instructions on each page to your student. We provide suggestions to help you discuss the concepts covered. Some pages include optional extension activities in case you'd like to take the phonetic and numeric concepts covered beyond the workbook page!



THESE WILL INCLUDE PAGES LIKE ...

PHONICS

Your child will learn to read words featuring vowel pairs, as well as words with the suffixes *-er*, *-ing*, and vowel + *r*.

READY TO READ 4
PHONICS
 INSTRUCTIONS: Let's practice reading words with the /i:/ sound. There are a couple of different ways to make the /i:/ sound. We'll talk about three of those next this week: *ai*, *ea*, and *ee*!

There's one outfit that can help you remember these three ways to make the /i:/ sound:

new blue suit!

COLOR THE LETTERS
 When you see the letters *ai*, *ea*, or *ee* together, remember that they usually make the long vowel sound /i:/. Color these letter pairs in each word below. Read the words! Remember to start at the beginning of the word and show the letters together as you read.

screw bruise
 fruit clue
 fuel flew

scr-
 (Use the sound mat to help you remember the words in this section.)

STUDENT BOOK 4

READY TO READ 4
LANGUAGE ARTS
SYLLABLES

INSTRUCTIONS: Have you ever heard of a syllable? A syllable is a part of a word. All words have at least one syllable, but some words have several. You can separate a word into syllables by forming claps to show the different parts of a word. Let's clap for each part, or syllable, of the word below.

sa • van • na

(Practice clapping and counting syllables together as you say a few words. You can choose someone around you to borrow about alphabet, church, bus, etc.)

PRACTICE IT
 Read each word, then color the number that shows how many syllables are in each word.

clown (1 2 3) cup • cake (1 2 3)
 out • side (1 2 3) ba • na • na (1 2 3)
 tow • el (1 2 3) pic • nic (1 2 3)

STUDENT BOOK 4

READY TO READ 4
LANGUAGE ARTS
CONSONANT BLEND - DIGRAPHS

INSTRUCTIONS: Look at each picture below, and say its name out loud. Color the box with the consonant graph that you hear at the beginning or end of the words.

COLOR IT

-nt -nce
 -st -sk
 -ch -sh
 -ch -th
 -nk -nt

STUDENT BOOK 4

READY TO READ 4
MATH
EVEN - ODD NUMBERS

INSTRUCTIONS: Let's talk about even and odd numbers! Any number that can be divided evenly into two equal groups is called an even number. Any number that can't be divided into two equal groups is called an odd number. Let's see how it works!

EVEN NUMBERS
 Take out 8 Spenser books. Pretend that you're going to divide that money equally between you and a friend. Separate the money into two equal piles, with the same number of books in each pile. Can you do it?

yes no

ODD NUMBERS
 Take out 11 Spenser Books. Pretend that you want to divide that money equally between you and a friend. Separate the money into two equal piles, with the same number of books in each pile. Can you do it?

yes no

Let's see if we can divide this herd of zebras into two equal groups. Can you divide exactly half of the zebras?

If you were able to divide the herd into two equal halves, then you know that 11 is an even number!

How many zebras are there? _____ is an even number!

STUDENT BOOK 4

READY TO READ 4
MATH
THERMOMETER PRACTICE

INSTRUCTIONS: What's the tool that helps us measure temperature called? A thermometer! Do you know temperatures across the red liquid inside the thermometer to rise, and make temperatures across the red liquid to slide down inside the thermometer. We can compare temperatures by looking at that!

CIRCLE IT
 Circle the thermometer that shows a hotter temperature. Circle the thermometer that shows a cooler temperature.

Now get a red crayon or colored pencil, and fill in this thermometer so that it shows _____.

Count by 5s to help you figure out how high the red line needs to go.

Is 25 an even or an odd number?

STUDENT BOOK 4

READY TO READ 4
MATH
DIFFERENT WAYS TO WRITE NUMBERS

INSTRUCTIONS: You've learned that there are different ways to write numbers!

You can write the number like this: **5**

Or you can write a number like this: **five**

Tally marks are another way to represent a number. Tally marks are four short lines straight lines. There are 5 lines. How many more lines do you need to make 5?

COUNT IT
 What happens if you're trying to write a number that's bigger than five? Well, you just keep counting lines, but every time you finish one set of five, you make a fifth space, and draw one or two lines. Count how many tally marks are in this set and write the number using digits (0-9).

HANDS-ON MATH
 Let's play with tally marks! Use your fingers to make five tall marks. Find some paper or a piece of cardboard to use as a base, and use your fingers to make five tall marks. How many tall marks can you make? You can practice writing some tally marks, if you'd like!

DID YOU KNOW?
 People often use tally marks to help them keep track of things. And you can use tally marks next time you need to keep track!

STUDENT BOOK 4

MATH

Math pages cover important mathematical concepts that go beyond numbers and counting, including reading thermometers, solving for the unknown, and even and odd numbers.

ART

Your child has the opportunity to explore pictures of classic artwork and create some of their own!

READY TO READ 4
LANGUAGE ARTS
ALL ABOUT ME PROJECT

INSTRUCTIONS: You're going to write your own book in this unit! Today, you'll create the first page. We'll use the pages you create each week, so that we can put them together to make a little book when you complete the lessons. On the back of this page, draw a picture of your whole family! (Remember: You will need to help your child with writing the words on the back of the page.)

ALL ABOUT ME

My name is: _____

I have _____ eyes and _____ hair.

STUDENT BOOK 4

BIBLE

Bible pages explore the Bible concept covered in the Teacher's Guide more fully.



READY TO READ 4
BIBLE
KNOWING GOD'S WORD

INSTRUCTIONS: God gave us His Word so that we could know Him better. When we know what God said in His Word, we won't be misled when believing His. Let's read the text below, and then read God's Word. Think about how we are supposed to each live with truth. (After reading each line and reading the corresponding Bible passage, ask your child to write how they would respond to each line with truth. Record their words on the line.)

LIE
"God doesn't love you, you're not good enough."
What would you say to this lie?

SCRIPTURE
... but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.—Romans 5:8

LIE
"You don't have to believe in Jesus to worship God."
What would you say to this lie?

SCRIPTURE
Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."—John 14:6

Author: Brand
STUDENT BOOK 4

READY TO READ 4
BIBLE
PSALM 139:14

INSTRUCTIONS: God created everything—from the giant elephant to the tiny dung beetle. Our mighty, creative God provides for the needs of elephants and dung beetles, and the also provides for all of our. Take the words to complete this verse that praise God for His awesome creativity!

I praise you for: I am
fearfully and wonderfully
made. Wonderful are your
works; my soul knows
very well.
—Psalm 139:14

Author: Brand
STUDENT BOOK 4

READY TO READ 4
LET'S READ!
CHAPTER 1: A Ride on a Train

INSTRUCTIONS: You're going to begin reading a chapter book today! This is chapter 1 of Jess and Dan's Adventures. Make sure to read this page because by the end of this week, you'll have 8 chapters in your book altogether, and you can read a page and again, whenever you'd like!

Jess and Dan wait at the rail. They have come to ride on a train.
"Oh no!" says Jess. "I just felt a raindrop!"
"That is okay," says Dan. "We have paid to ride on the train.
The train can still go in the rain."

Author: Brand
STUDENT BOOK 4

READY TO READ 4
LANGUAGE ARTS
READING COMPREHENSION

INSTRUCTIONS: You just read the first chapter of Jess and Dan's Adventures. Now, you can answer some questions to show how well you understood the story! Circle the correct answer for each question.

CIRCLE IT

Who was this story about? Jess and Dan
Pam and Sam

Did the rain stop the train from coming? yes no

Did the train go fast or slow? fast slow

WRITE IT

There was one compound word in the story. A compound word is two words put together to make one, bigger word! Can you find the compound word and write it on this line? _____

One word in the story begins with the consonant blend *in*. Find it and write it here: _____

One word in the story ends with the consonant blend *nd*. Find it and write it here: _____

Author: Brand
STUDENT BOOK 4

READING BOOK

Your child will have the opportunity to read a chapter each week in the mini reading book *Jess and Dan's Adventures*. Save these pages and bind them together into a nine-chapter book at the end of the unit.

SCIENCE

Science pages give your child the opportunity to recall the information they have learned from the Teacher's Guide about different animals and the savanna habitat where they live.

READY TO READ 4
SOCIAL STUDIES
WATER CONSERVATION

INSTRUCTIONS: Water is one thing that all living things need, but it's also a natural resource that is often wasted. Sometimes people think that because water isn't expensive (for many people), that they don't need to be careful about conserving it. Actually, water is something that we should save instead! Let's talk about each situation below, and come up with ideas about how to make sure that water isn't being wasted as we go about our daily activities. You can draw your ideas in each section on this page! (Use a pencil or a water-based marker, and consider the water conservation habits you'll be able to do in your child's house or at school.)

When you're brushing your teeth...
When you're getting a drink of water...
When you're taking a shower...
When you're washing the car...

Author: Brand
STUDENT BOOK 4

READY TO READ 4
SCIENCE
REPTILE CHARACTERISTICS

INSTRUCTIONS: The black mamba is a reptile that makes its home in the savannas of Africa. Reptiles are a group of animals that share several characteristics; other animals groups you know about include mammals, birds, and insects! Let's look closer at the characteristics that reptiles have in common.

Reptiles...

- have dry, scaly skin.
- have a backbone.
- lay eggs, but a few give birth to live young.
- are cold-blooded.
- breathe air.

WRITE IT

With these characteristics in mind, can you think of any animals that are reptiles? Name all the reptiles you can think of, and I will write their names below.

Author: Brand
STUDENT BOOK 4

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social studies pages explore topics that help your child begin to understand the world they live in and how to relate to it.

SO HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

How long this takes depends on you and your child. On a busy day, you'll easily be able to finish in half an hour. When you have more time, and you choose to read a stack of picture books, find videos of the animal you're learning about, or decide to really get messy and learn about water in a hands-on way, you could spend a whole morning or afternoon learning together! There is also a Facebook group where we post resources for each unit into a file. You can find this at <http://facebook.com/groups/gatherroundhomeschool> and ask your questions and get help from other users of the curriculum.

SUPPLIES

Only a few supplies are essential for each day of Ready to Read. Make sure to have these on hand, as you will be using them regularly. Review games utilize common household materials that you are likely to have on hand, but feel free to make substitutions and use what you have!

- pencil
- crayons
- scissors
- stapler
- glue stick

AND THAT'S IT!

IS THIS ENOUGH?

Obviously, I believe in this or I wouldn't be creating it and selling it. But ultimately, you have to decide that for yourself based on your goals and expectations. It takes trust. Trust that love of learning will accomplish more than force-feeding information. Trust that the connections in these units will mean more to your kids than individual subjects carefully separated into the little cubicles of their minds. Rest in the fact that the less pressure you have and the more time you have, the more you can jump into whatever strikes your fancy and do those things you've always wanted to but never had time for. This is your moment. Lay down the comparison for one month, and let's just bring it back to the family couch. Gather 'Round, kids—this month is going to change everything.

May God bless your homeschooling this month. May the creator of creativity inspire you and give you fresh vision and motivation and excitement in your home. May this month bring you closer to gather as a family and spark deep conversations that stick. And may God use what is truly His to draw you and your kids even closer to Him.

Love,

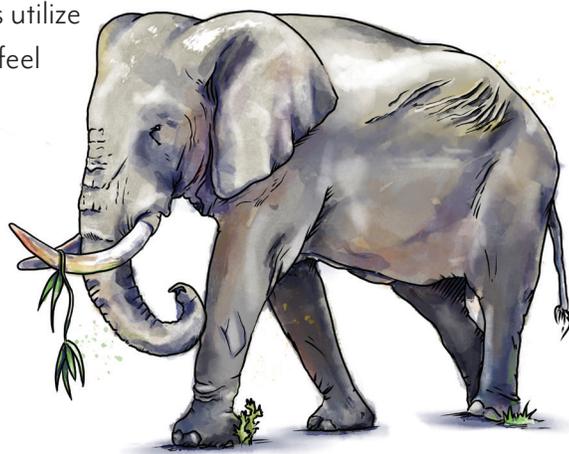
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SCOPE +

Sequence

LESSON 1

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Savanna ecosystem

BIBLE: God's design for seasons

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: *ai* says /ā/, quotation marks, punctuation marks, tally marks

SOCIAL STUDIES: Continents of the world

LESSON 2

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Lion (size, diet, habits)

BIBLE: Daniel in the lions' den

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: /ă/ vs. /ā/, sight word: *again*, compound words, story problems

SCIENCE: Camouflage

LESSON 3

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Lion (roars, reproduction)

BIBLE: Daniel in the lions' den

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Forming complete sentences, spelling, *All About Me* project, story problem-solving strategies

BIBLE: Daniel in the lions' den

LESSON 4

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: White-backed vulture

BIBLE: God's protection

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Reading practice, reading comprehension, counting by 5s, story problems, place value

ART: Warm + cool colors

LESSON 5

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: The Maasai

BIBLE: Israelites wandering in the desert

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: *ee* and *ea* say /ē/, compound words, time of day

SOCIAL STUDIES: Culture

LESSON 6

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Elephant (size, diet, lifestyle)

BIBLE: God provided manna

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: /ē/ vs. /ē/, sight word: *there*, adding past 10, counting by 5s

SCIENCE: Elephants (dictation)

LESSON 7

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Elephant (tusks, trunk, ears)

BIBLE: God supplies all our needs

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Completing sentences, spelling, *All About Me* project, story problems

ART: Picture study: Thomas Baines, *Gold and Ivory Elephants Charging Over Quartose Country*, 1873

LESSON 8

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Dung beetle

BIBLE: God provides

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Reading practice, reading comprehension, counting by 10s, addition, story problems, place value

BIBLE: Psalm 139:14

LESSON 9

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Umbrella thorn acacia

BIBLE: The Tabernacle

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: *oa* says /ō/, money, story problems

BIBLE: The Tabernacle

LESSON 10

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Giraffe (height, diet)

BIBLE: God's provision

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: /ō/ vs. /ō/, sight word: *from*, deciding whether to add or subtract

SCIENCE: Giraffe facts

LESSON 11

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Giraffe (pattern, reproduction)

BIBLE: God gave Moses the pattern for the Tabernacle

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Spelling, *All About Me* project, story problems

ART: Pattern

LESSON 12

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Hyenas (diet, lifestyle)

BIBLE: Kindness, caring about others

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Reading practice, reading comprehension, counting by 5s, addition and subtraction, story problems, place value, budgeting

CHARACTER: Wise choices with money

LESSON 13

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Drought**BIBLE:** Jesus is living water

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: *ui, ue,* and *ew* say /ū/, hard and soft *c + g*, skip counting by 2s,**SOCIAL STUDIES:** Natural disasters

LESSON 14

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Cheetahs (speed, diet)**BIBLE:** God is omniscient

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Reading /ū/ and /ū/words, sight word: *said*, skip counting by 2s**ART:** Drawing what you see

LESSON 15

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Cheetahs (pattern, status as a "vulnerable" species)**BIBLE:** God is omnipotent and omnipresent

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Complete sentences, spelling, *All About Me* project, solve for the unknown**BIBLE:** Jeremiah 32:17

LESSON 16

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Black mambas (speed, length, appearance, venom)**BIBLE:** Paul's miraculous recovery from a snakebite

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Reading practice, reading comprehension, skip counting by 3s, deciding whether to add or subtract, place value, solve for the unknown**SCIENCE:** Reptile characteristics (dictation)

LESSON 17

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Savanna ecosystem**BIBLE:** All things were created through Jesus

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: *ow* and *ou* say /ow/, syllables, skip counting by 2s**SCIENCE:** Food web

LESSON 18

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Zebras (family groups, diet)**BIBLE:** God called His creation good

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Words with *ou* and *ow*, sight words: *any + many*, *even + odd* numbers**ART:** Making an art project to help remember how to identify even and odd numbers

LESSON 19

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Zebras (migration)**BIBLE:** God sent the Holy Spirit to guide us

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Sentence building, spelling, singular and plural words, *All About Me* project**SOCIAL STUDIES:** Cardinal directions, map reading

LESSON 20

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Devil's flower mantis**BIBLE:** Guarding against the devil's schemes

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Reading practice, reading comprehension, counting by 2s, counting by 5s, subtraction, story problems, *even + odd* numbers**BIBLE:** Knowing God's word

LESSON 21

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Environmental conservation**BIBLE:** God's instructions for farmers

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Two sounds of *oo*, ordinal numbers, measurement tools**SOCIAL STUDIES:** Water conservation

LESSON 22

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Baboons (characteristics, diet, life cycle)**BIBLE:** Humans began eating meat after the flood

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Sorting /oo/ sounds, sight word: *every*, temperature**SCIENCE:** Baboon facts

LESSON 23

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Baboon (communication, lifestyle)**BIBLE:** Resting safely in Jesus

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Spelling, *All About Me* project, reading thermometers**BIBLE:** Psalm 4:8

LESSON 24

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Flap-necked chameleon**BIBLE:** Righteousness as a shield

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Reading practice, reading comprehension, deciding whether to add or subtract, thermometer craft**ART:** Chameleon camouflage

LESSON 25

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Wildfires in the savanna

BIBLE: God's Word is like fire

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: *oi* and *oy* say /oi/, consonant blends and digraphs, using coins

SOCIAL STUDIES: Fire safety

LESSON 26

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Temminck's courser

BIBLE: Pentecost

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Vowel pairs, sight words: *should*, *would*, *could*, adding two-digit numbers, counting by 2s

BIBLE: Pentecost

LESSON 27

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Rhinoceros (white and black rhinos, diet)

BIBLE: Not living in fear

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Complete sentences, spelling, sight word review, story problems with two-digit numbers, reading thermometers

ART: Picture study: Thomas Baines, *The Black Rhinoceros*, 1871

LESSON 28

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Rhinoceros (how its skin is protected from sun and insects)

BIBLE: A friend who is closer than a brother

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Reading practice, reading comprehension, addition and subtraction, story problem, reading thermometers, even and odd numbers

SCIENCE: Rhinoceros information

LESSON 29

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Safaris

BIBLE: Jesus is the Lion of Judah

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: *-ing*, *-ang*, *-ong*, *-ung*, capitalization of names, measuring length

SOCIAL STUDIES: Advertising for a safari company

LESSON 30

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Ostriches (height, diet)

BIBLE: No need to fear, because God is with you

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Practice with *-ing*, *-ang*, *-ong*, *-ung* sounds, sight word: *once*, different ways to make a number

BIBLE: Isaiah 41:10

LESSON 31

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Ostriches (lifecycle, myths)

BIBLE: Ready for Jesus's return

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Sentence completion and spelling, suffix *-ing*, parts of a number

SCIENCE: Ostrich life cycle

LESSON 32

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Malachite kingfisher

BIBLE: God cares for the needs of His creation

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Reading practice, reading comprehension, count by 2s, addition and subtraction, story problems, parts of a number, reading thermometers

ART: Art mediums

LESSON 33

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Food in Tanzania

BIBLE: Praising Jesus in everything

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Vowel + *r*, reading scavenger hunt, reading thermometers, ordinal numbers, days of the week

SOCIAL STUDIES: Restaurant role-play

LESSON 34

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Nile crocodiles (reproduction and diet)

BIBLE: Obedience to parents' instructions

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Reading and writing practice, sight word: *where*, solve for the unknown

ART: Obedience to parents

LESSON 35

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Nile crocodiles (cold-bloodedness and teeth)

BIBLE: Jesus is the radiance of God's glory

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Sentence completion, spelling, suffix *-er*, double-digit addition, even and odd numbers

SCIENCE: Teeth

LESSON 36

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SCIENCE: Warthog

BIBLE: God's design for creation

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

PHONICS + MATH: Reading practice, reading comprehension, currency comparison, parts of numbers, story problems, reading thermometers

ART: Design a book cover

READY TO READ 4

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

SCOPE + SEQUENCE



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THIS WEEK WE'LL COVER . . .

SCIENCE: SAVANNA ECOSYSTEM, LIONS, WHITE-BACKED VULTURES

This week, you'll begin to explore the savannas of Africa! These dry, grassy plains are home to all kinds of vibrant life which, together, form a unique ecosystem. Read about the tawny lions who sleep and hunt and the white-backed vultures who help keep these grasslands clean by eating carrion.

BIBLE: GOD KNOWS OUR SEASONS, AND HE CARES FOR US

This week, students will learn about the seasons of life like the seasons in the African savanna. They will read the story of Daniel and the Lions' Den as they learn about lions. They will also connect the special way God created vultures, and how we can trust Him to care for us and know our season. This is a great week to talk about how we don't have to be afraid of death because He knows just how many days we have, and we won't die until it is our time.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Your child will begin reading words that use the *ai* vowel combination to make the /ā/ sound. Many activities throughout the week will reinforce this sound. In addition, your child will be introduced to the concept of quotation marks and compound words. This week, your child is also introduced to their unit project: *All About Me*. They will also start reading their unit chapter book.

MATH: TALLY MARKS + STORY PROBLEM STRATEGY REVIEW

Tally marks are introduced this week. You may want to prepare popsicle sticks, pretzel sticks, or twigs ahead of time in order to allow your child to really get "hands-on" with tally marks and have fun playing with them! Your child will get further practice with some of the different story problem solving strategies that have been introduced in previous Ready to Read units. Encourage your child to consider which strategies they find most helpful. Most children will latch onto one or two strategies that really "click" in their brains, and that's totally okay! Moving forward, encourage your child to use the solving strategies that make the most sense to them.

ART: WARM + COOL COLORS

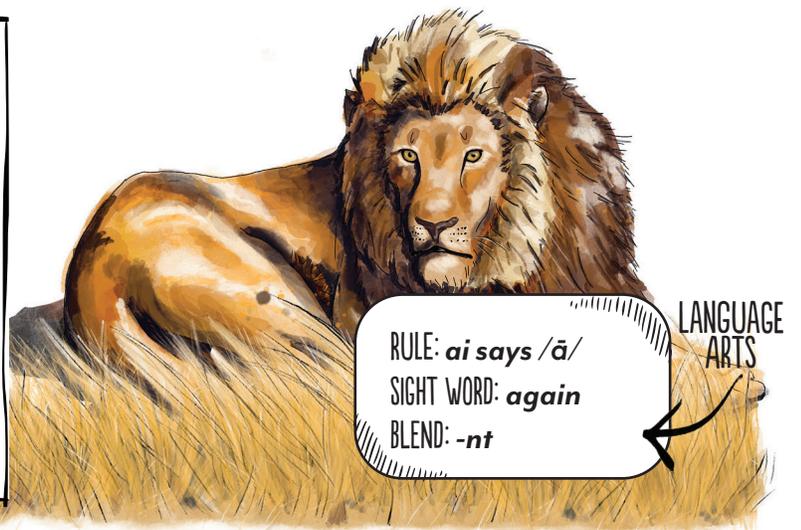
Your child is introduced to the concept of warm and cool colors, through an open-ended activity. You may need to guide your child to help them decide whether each crayon or colored pencil is warm or cool until your child is able to make the decision on their own. Extend this activity by talking about items around you in your home and identifying whether their shades are warm or cool.

SOCIAL STUDIES: WORLD MAP

In the student book, your child will review the names and locations of different continents, solidifying the concept that the savannas this unit covers are located in Africa!

LIFESTYLE OF LEARNING

As your child begins to read more and more, work toward solidifying a habit of paying attention to the meaning of the words they read. If your child reads a word like *nail* or *paid* in this week's reading practice, ask them to use that word in a sentence. If your child isn't sure what a word means at first, you can offer up example sentences. It's especially fun to make up silly or dramatic sentences sometimes! We don't want kids paying so much attention to sounding out a word that they forget to consider the actual meaning of the word.



RULE: *ai* says /ā/
SIGHT WORD: *again*
BLEND: *-nt*

LANGUAGE ARTS



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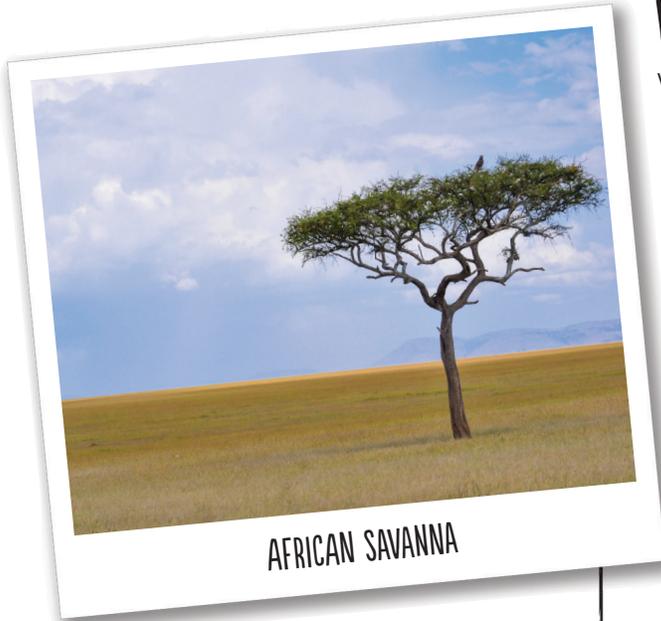
AFRICAN SAVANNA ECCLESIASTES 3:1

AI SAYS /A/

PUNCTUATION FUN

DIFFERENT WAY TO WRITE NUMBERS

WHERE IS THE SAVANNA?



AFRICAN SAVANNA

VIDEO
BREAK

Look for a video of Serengeti National Park to get a glimpse of the wildlife that thrives in the savanna!

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

 WHAT CONTINENT'S SAVANNAS ARE WE READING ABOUT? (THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA)

 WHEN DOES THE SAVANNA GET MOST OF ITS RAIN? (DURING THE WET SEASON)

 WHICH TYPE OF PLANT DOES THE SAVANNA HAVE MORE OF: GRASS OR TREES? (GRASS)

WELCOME!

Welcome to the African savanna! Look at the map to see where in the world you are. Right now, you're in the middle of the **Serengeti National Park** in Tanzania, Africa! If you look around you, you'll find yourself in the middle of a rolling, grassy plain. The long grass of the savanna sways in the light breeze. You can see occasional trees dotting the landscape here and there. Out on the savanna in the middle of the day, the sun feels a bit hot, and you might feel like you need a pair of sunglasses! Sitting down under the shade of one of those trees would help you feel cooler. During the wet season, rains fall on the savanna, and the roots of the grasses and trees drink up the much-needed water. During the dry season, many days can pass before the animals and plants of the savanna get any rain. In spite of the

warm, dry climate, this savanna is full of life! From tiny insects to mighty predators, each creature that lives in the savanna depends on all the others in the ecosystem for survival. There are many different kinds of grasslands all around the world, but in this unit, we'll learn all about the incredible savannas of Africa. What are you most excited to learn about?



BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Ecclesiastes 3:1) When God made the world, do you know that He made the African savanna, too? He decided that it would have a wet season and a dry season, and He even created grasses and plants and animals that would be specially suited for this environment! The Bible tells us that everything has a season. Sometimes when we are in a hard season or a lonely season, things can feel really dark and sad, but we know that hard things get better and seasons (like the seasons of weather) come and go. Isn't it cool how God made things to change?



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LIONS

DANIEL 6:1-15

LONG A, SHORT A

SIGHT WORD: AGAIN

STORY PROBLEMS

CAMOUFLAGE

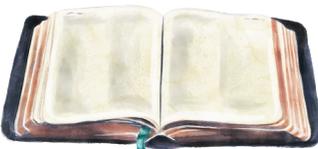
LIONS

Meet the stately lion. This big cat stalks the savanna in search of its prey. When we say *big*, we really mean it! A male lion can be about 6–7 feet (1.8–2.1 m) long (*show your child approximately how long this is*), and his bushy mane makes him look even bigger! A *lioness*, or female lion, isn't quite as big, but don't let her size fool you. Lionesses on the savannah do much of the hunting for their families. Lions live in family groups, called *prides*. This makes them unusual among cats. All other wild cat species tend to live alone, but a pride of lions lives and works together. Groups of lionesses will hunt together, and a pride of lions will protect its territory by not allowing strange lions to hunt in the patch of land that they call their own. Lions are *carnivores*, or meat-eaters. They'll hunt and eat prey of any size—from rodents to hippos—but much of the time, they go for a medium-sized meal: zebra, wildebeest, or antelope. Unlike you, lions don't need three meals a day. After a really big meal, they'll often go three or more days before hunting again. The yellowish-brown color of a lion's fur blends in with the color of the grass of the savannah, helping the lion to sneak up on its prey without being noticed.



BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Daniel 6:1-15) Have you ever heard the story of Daniel in the lion's den? Daniel was a good man who loved God. God spoke to Daniel and helped him to understand and know dreams that he hadn't even dreamed or heard before! This made the king very happy, and he made Daniel a leader. However, it also made people very jealous of him, and they wanted Daniel to go away. These people came up with a law that would get Daniel in trouble: people could only pray to or worship the king. This didn't stop Daniel from praying to God! And the trap that had been set was sprung!



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHAT DO YOU CALL A GROUP OF LIONS THAT LIVES TOGETHER? (A PRIDE)



CAN YOU NAME SOME OF THE ANIMALS THAT A LION EATS? (ZEBRA, WILDEBEEST, ANTELOPE, ETC.)



HOW OFTEN DO LIONS NEED TO EAT? (IF THEY HAVE A BIG MEAL, ONLY ONCE EVERY FEW DAYS.)



TEACHER'S GUIDE

LIONS

DANIEL 6:16-28

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SENTENCES + SPELLING

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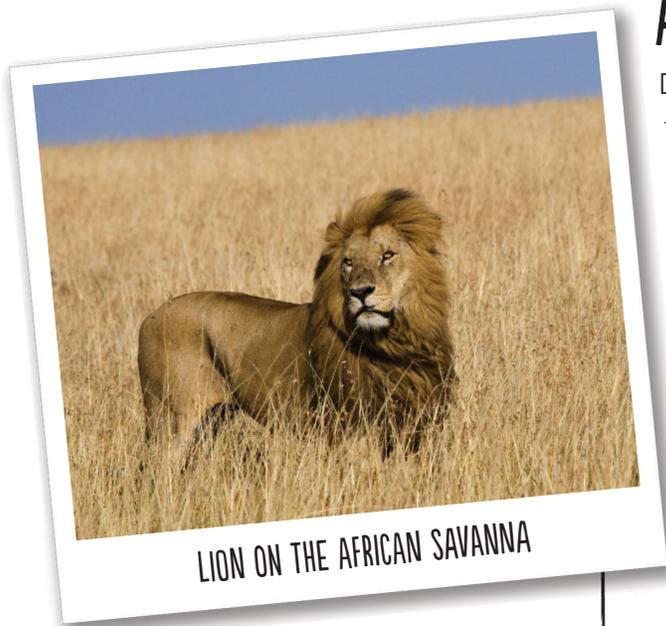
ALL ABOUT ME

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STORY PROBLEMS

PAGE 4

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN



A MIGHTY ROAR!

Did you know that the unmistakable roar of a lion can be heard from miles (or kilometers) away? You don't even have to be within sight of a lion to hear its magnificent roar. A lion may roar for a couple of reasons. Perhaps he's trying to show off how powerful he is or warn another lion to get out of his territory. We may not speak the same language, but it's easy to tell that when a lion roars, he gets everyone's attention right away! Although we often think about lions as fierce hunters, they actually spend most of their days sleeping and resting. A lioness will usually give birth to two-to-four cubs at a time. As newborns, lion cubs are blind and completely helpless, but they grow quickly! In just a few months, they are walking around and playing with each other. Shortly after, they begin following their mom around and learning how to hunt. By around the age of two, young lions are able to hunt for themselves. Most young male lions are forced out of the pride once they are able to take care of themselves. They are sent away to live on their own until they find their own pride. Some young female lions are allowed to stay, and they will someday raise their own cubs in the pride that they grew up in.

LISTEN!

Find a video or audio recording of a lion's roar and listen to it!

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHAT DO LIONS SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME DOING? (SLEEPING AND RESTING)



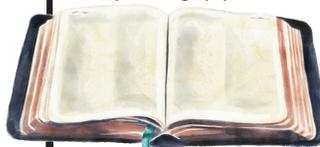
WHAT ARE BABY LIONS CALLED? (CUBS)



DO YOUNG LIONS STAY WITH THEIR MOTHERS THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES? (NO, MANY ARE SENT AWAY TO LIVE ON THEIR OWN UNTIL THEY BECOME PART OF A NEW PRIDE.)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Daniel 6:16-28) The king loved Daniel and didn't want him to die, but once a king made a rule, it could not be changed. With a sad heart, the king put Daniel in the lions' den. Do you think Daniel was afraid? The king was so upset that he didn't eat food all night, but the next morning, Daniel answered him from the den saying that an angel of the Lord had shut the mouths of the lions. He had been protected all night with some very hungry predators! Wow! Lions can be dangerous, but nothing is bigger or more powerful than its creator, and God is the creator of everything.





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WHITE-BACKED VULTURE 1 PETER 5:7

LET'S READ!

READING COMPREHENSION

REVIEW

WARM + COOL COLORS

WHITE-BACKED VULTURE

Can you imagine eating a lion's leftovers? Well, that's exactly the kind of meal that sounds good to a vulture! Several species of vultures make their home in the African savanna, where they play a very important role in the ecosystem. Earlier this week, you learned that all creatures that live in the savanna need each other to survive. Well, the big way that vultures help take care of the savanna is by cleaning up the garbage, or, shall we say, *eating* up the garbage! Vultures are *scavengers*. They mainly eat *carriion*, which is the carcass of a dead animal. Vultures use their sharp eyesight while soaring high in the sky to spot carcasses left behind by lions, or the carcasses of animals who passed away due to old age or disease. After spotting a meal, they are able to swoop down and eat up every last bit of flesh on the carcass before it begins to rot. This sounds pretty gross to us, but actually, it's a very good thing for the savanna! A rotting carcass attracts bacteria and insects; it's the "garbage" of the savanna, and the vulture helps clean it up! A pair of white-backed vultures will make their nest in a tall tree. The mother vulture will lay just one egg, once a year, and both parents will care for their chick for several months after it hatches.



WHITE-BACKED VULTURE

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



HOW DO VULTURES "CLEAN UP" THE GARBAGE OF THE SAVANNA? (BY EATING IT)



WHAT IS CARRION? (THE CARCASS OF A DEAD ANIMAL)

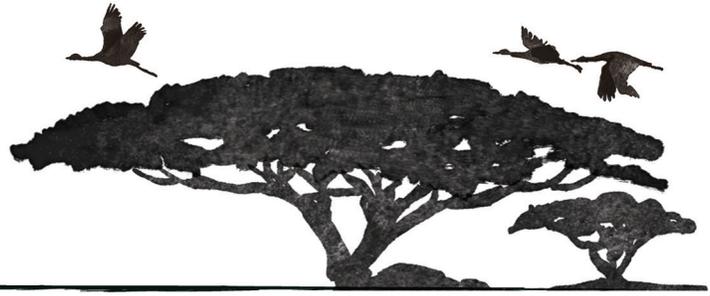


HOW DO VULTURES FIND THEIR MEALS? (THEY SOAR HIGH IN THE SKY AND USE THEIR SHARP EYESIGHT TO LOOK FOR IT)



BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read 1 Peter 5:7) Have you ever wondered how a vulture can eat meat that is going bad or rotten without getting sick like you and I would? God gave them very acidic stomachs that eat away bacteria, so they don't get sick! These birds don't fear getting sick because they were designed in this special way. We don't need to fear because the Bible tells us we can throw our anxieties, our fears, and our doubts to God. He protects the vultures, and He protects His people, too! When you feel anxious or fearful, remember that God protects the vultures in the way they need it most, and He will protect you, too. He loves you more than you could ever imagine, so tell Him when you're fearful or hurt and when you're happy or excited. He cares about it all!



LET'S REVIEW!

What an amazing first week we've had, beginning our adventure on the African savannas! We learned about lions, the majestic hunters of the savanna, as well as the vultures who soar high in the sky, looking for carrion that they can devour. Both lions and vultures play important and unique roles in the savanna ecosystem, something that we'll learn more about throughout this unit. We began to read words with the letters *ai* making the long /ā/ sound in the middle. We practiced representing numbers with tally marks and solved a lot of story problems, too. We even got to read about God protecting Daniel when he was thrown into the lions' den. I wonder what we'll learn about next week!

- What is one interesting thing you learned about lions? What is one interesting thing you learned about vultures?
- Can you say the five long vowel sounds? (/ā/, /ē/, /ī/, /ō/, /ū/)
- What's your favorite way to solve story problems? (*i.e. looking for clue words, using a number line, drawing a picture, using counters, picturing the story inside your mind*)
- Why didn't the lions hurt Daniel? (*because God protected him*)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

TALLY UP VOWEL SOUNDS!

Have some fun with tally marks! You could play any kind of competitive game, such as throwing a beanbag in a basket from a distance, and have your child keep score by using tally marks. To combine tally marks with phonics practice, write out a big list of words featuring long or short *a* sounds, and have your child use tally marks to show how many words belong to the /ā/ team and how many belong to the /ă/ team.

Here's a list of some words with long and short *a* sounds to get you started: play, paid, man, hand, raindrop, made, wail, cat, raid, stay, waste, fan, stand, way, stain, ram, clay, quail, pail, splat.

PRAYER BREAK

Father, thank you for the opportunity to learn. Thank you that we can trust you for all of our days. Help us to not be afraid about things that could go wrong and to turn to you for everything we need.





THIS WEEK WE'LL COVER . . .

SCIENCE: THE MAASAI, ELEPHANTS, DUNG BEETLES

Begin the week by reading about some of the people of the savanna: the Maasai, who have sought to preserve their culture and traditional way of life even as the world changes. Later in the week, learn about the incredibly mighty elephant and the tiny dung beetle!

BIBLE: GOD PROVIDES FOR US AND KNOWS OUR NEEDS

This week, students learn about the Israelites, who lived in tents and wandered, waiting for the home that God had promised them. They will learn how God provided for them in the wilderness, and how God gives us tools to help provide for us. Finally, they will learn that God provides for even our unspoken and unknown needs—like a mother cares for her young.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Your child will begin reading words that use the ee and ea vowel combinations to make the /ē/ sound. Many activities throughout the week will reinforce this sound. In addition, your child will receive a deeper introduction to reading compound words.

MATH: READING CLOCKS + ADDING PAST 10

Your child will gain more practice with telling time by reading analog clocks. They will also begin adding past 10. Encourage your child not to think of adding to a larger sum as something different from adding to a small sum. The process is exactly the same; it's just that now, your child is practicing a familiar process with larger numbers. Continue to practice adding using story problems!

ART: PICTURE STUDY

This week, the art activity invites you to study an exciting painting: *Gold and Ivory Elephants Charging Over Quartose Country*, 1873 by artist and explorer Thomas Baines.

SOCIAL STUDIES: CULTURE

After reading about the Maasai in the student book, you and your student will dive deeper into the concept of culture. Each person's culture influences many aspects of daily life. Your child will complete a dictation activity in which they are asked to identify key attributes of your own family's culture.

LANGUAGE ARTS

RULE: **ee and ea say /ē/**
SIGHT WORD: **there**
BLEND: **-ch**

LIFE SKILLS

Here are two life skills to practice this week. One is a hands-on skill, and the other is a memory topic. If your child already knows these well, feel free to skip this. If these are more challenging for your child, feel free to spend more than a week practicing the skills.

Learn to empty the dishwasher or dry and put away dishes.

Choose one of the Bible verses covered this week to memorize. Psalm 139:14 is a good option, or Philippians 4:19.



TEACHER'S GUIDE

THE MAASAI

HEBREWS 11:8–9

PAGE 1

EE AND EA SAY /E/

PAGE 2

COMPOUND WORDS

PAGE 3

TIME OF DAY

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WHAT IS CULTURE?



MAASAI

PEOPLES OF THE SAVANNA

When you see pictures of the plants and animals of the savanna, you might think they look a little strange. Neither a zebra nor a giraffe seem like the kind of animal you might see when you open your back door! However, to the peoples who have lived on the savanna throughout history, these plants and animals simply look like . . . home! Take a moment to think about the types of trees and animals that you might see when you walk into your backyard. (Talk about common wildlife and plants where you live.) You feel at home around this sort of nature, but the Maasai have always felt right at home surrounded by the natural world of the savanna.

The Maasai have traditionally been nomadic herders of goats and cattle. To be a *nomad* means that you don't settle down in one place permanently, but you travel from one place to another.

The Maasai move around in search of the best grazing lands for their goats and cows (because goats and cows need a lot of grass to munch on!). Because the Maasai have lived on these rolling grasslands for centuries, they have developed their own unique culture and traditions. The Maasai have traditionally worn a vividly-colored (often red!) robe, called a *shuka*, along with heavy, colorful, beaded jewelry. Life today is not the same as it was hundreds of years ago, and the Maasai are trying to figure out how to preserve their own culture in a world that is changing quickly.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A NOMAD? (NOT SETTLING ANYWHERE PERMANENTLY, MOVING FROM PLACE TO PLACE)



WHAT KIND OF ANIMALS DO THE MAASAI RAISE? (CATTLE AND GOATS)



WHAT DO THE MAASAI TRADITIONALLY WEAR? (A SHUKA AND HEAVY BEADED JEWELRY)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Hebrews 11:8–9) Did you know that God's people, the Israelites, were nomads, too! God called Abraham into the wilderness to follow Him. They built tents, traveled, and grew in number. Eventually, they stopped to live in Egypt during a famine, but the Egyptians used them as slaves because they were afraid of their numbers and power. God called Moses to lead them out of slavery, and for years they wandered, searching for the promised land. Do you think wandering would be hard or easy? Imagine setting up your tent, and then taking it down again, searching for food, and cooking over a fire. It would be a lot of work!





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ELEPHANTS

EXODUS 16

READING /Ē/ + /Ē/ WORDS

SIGHT WORD: THERE

ADDING PAST 10

ELEPHANTS + COUNTING BY 5S

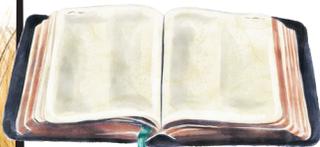
ELEPHANTS

Meet the biggest animal on the savanna: the elephant! There are different species of elephants living in Africa and Asia, but the very biggest elephant of all, is the African savanna elephant! These elephants can weigh almost 9 tons (8,000 kg), and when measured to their shoulder, stand as high as 10–13 feet (3–4 m) tall! (*Show your child approximately how tall this is.*) How do these mighty creatures get so big? Elephants are *herbivores*, meaning that they eat only plants. Unlike the lion, who sleeps most of the day and doesn't need to eat as frequently, elephants spend most of their time foraging for grass, fruit, roots, and bark to eat. Their huge bodies need a lot of fuel to provide them with the energy they need. This is why they spend most of their time roaming the grasslands, munching away! Female elephants tend to live together in herds, while male, or *bull*, elephants are more likely to live alone. Baby elephants are called *calves*, and due to their smaller size, are more vulnerable to predators. Grown-up elephants will guard their babies in the presence of threats. They will even charge at any predator threatening a calf! A predator will likely run away in fear of the heavy feet and sharp tusks of mama elephants! Elephants have a naturally long life-span, living up to 70 years in the wild.



BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Exodus 16) Elephants spend much of their time wandering in search of food to eat. We learned yesterday about the Israelites who wandered in the wilderness. Did you know that God took care of them when they couldn't find food? God made a special kind of food that was just for that season; it was called *manna*! It tasted like wafers and honey, yum! Each morning, the Israelites would go out and gather what they needed for the day. God cares about huge elephants and provides grass and plants for them to eat, and He cares about His people, too!



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHAT DO ELEPHANTS EAT? (GRASS, FRUIT, ROOTS, BARK)



WHAT ARE BABY ELEPHANTS CALLED? (CALVES)



HOW LONG CAN ELEPHANTS LIVE? (UP TO 70 YEARS IN THE WILD)



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- ELEPHANTS
- PHILIPPIANS 4:19

PAGE 1

- FINISH THE SENTENCE

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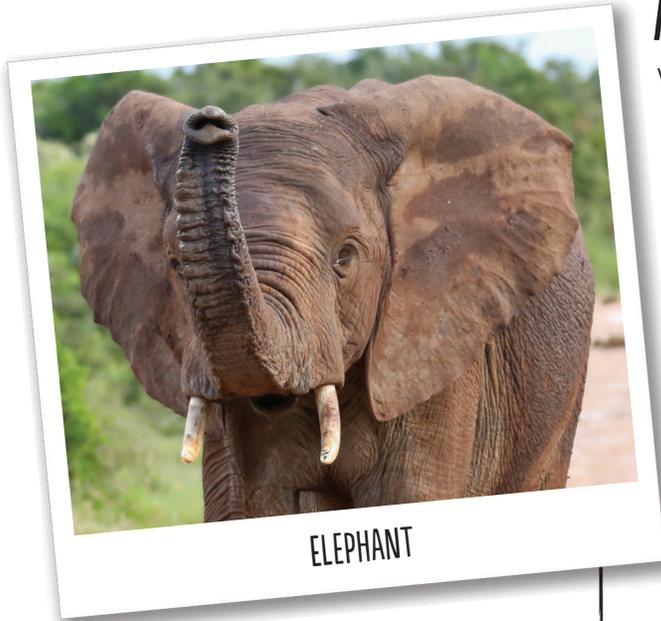
- ALL ABOUT ME

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- STORY PROBLEM PRACTICE

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- PICTURE STUDY



A TERRIFIC TRUNK

When you look at this picture, two things that you probably notice right away are the elephant's tusks and trunk. Both male and female African elephants have tusks. They use their tusks for digging for food and water. Those tusks are pretty cool, but the trunk? Now that's something really special! Can you imagine picking things up with your nose? Think about what it would be like if you could breathe through your hand! That sounds pretty silly, but the elephant's amazing trunk is like an arm and a nose, all in one! Elephants use their trunks to breathe and bring food up to their mouths to eat! An elephant can also suck water up into its trunk. Afterward, it can spray that water into its mouth to take a drink, or it can spray the water up onto its back in order to cool down! A trunk sure comes in handy! Another special trait of African elephants is their extra, extra large ears. The special design of these large ears helps to keep the elephant cool during long, sunny days on the savanna. Because its ears are so big, they help release body heat—as the elephant's blood flows through the blood vessels in their ears, the blood cools down! They can also flap their ears back and forth in order to feel a tiny breeze, the way you might fan yourself with a sheet of paper on a hot summer day!



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHAT CAN AN ELEPHANT DO WITH ITS TUSKS? (DIG FOR FOOD OR WATER)



WHAT CAN AN ELEPHANT DO WITH ITS TRUNK? (BREATHE, PICK THINGS UP, SUCK UP WATER AND SPRAY IT)



WHAT BODY PART HELPS KEEP AN ELEPHANT COOL? (ITS EARS)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Philippians 4:19) God doesn't just provide grasses, roots, and berries for elephants to eat; He also gave them a special tool to take care of themselves—their trunks! God gives us special tools, too! He gives us physical things—like our brains to think or our mouths to speak—but He also gives us invisible tools like faith, that help to protect us from doubts and fears. God supplies all of our needs; not just our need for water and food, but also our need for comfort and connection, our need to be valued and seen, and our need for Him! One of the very best tools that we have is prayer. We can use our mouths to speak to the creator of the entire world—the one who invented a new type of bread for the Israelites and took care of them in the wilderness! That's a pretty incredible tool, isn't it?



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DUNG BEETLE

PSALM 139:13–16

LET'S READ!

READING COMPREHENSION

REVIEW

PSALM 139:14

DUNG BEETLE

Today, we're going to learn about a creepy-crawly creature that spends most of its time with something that you probably wouldn't want to get too close to: dung! *Dung* is manure, or animal poop. There are thousands of species of dung beetles living on all of the continents except Antarctica. Many of those species are located in the African savanna, where they thrive on all the elephant dung they find! What's your favorite meal? Well . . . whatever you choose as your favorite, it's probably nothing like a dung beetle's favorite meal. That's right, they eat dung! Adult dung beetles get the nutrients they need by sucking the liquid out of fresh dung. These busy beetles are also known to bury dung to keep it fresh, and they will lay their eggs on it. When the eggs hatch, the larvae will eat the little bits of grass and plants left behind in elephant dung. Many species of dung beetles are very caring parents. They will stay near their eggs and help care for their larvae until they mature into grown-up beetles. Dung beetles play an important role in the ecosystem. Their habit of burying dung helps move soil around, and it helps the nutrients in the dung to be released into the dirt, which helps plants to grow! You may have heard of farmers using manure as fertilizer—what the dung beetle does is sort of like that. In addition, their habit of eating and burying dung helps keep the land clean and clear!



DUNG BEETLE

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHAT IS DUNG? (MANURE OR ANIMAL POOP)



ARE DUNG BEETLES FOUND ONLY IN AFRICA?
(NO, ON ALL CONTINENTS EXCEPT ANTARCTICA)

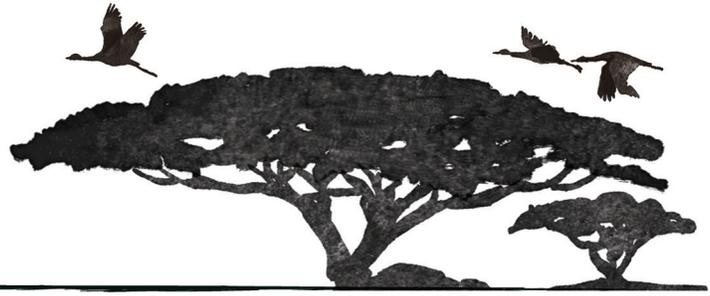


WHY ARE DUNG BEETLES IMPORTANT?
(BURYING DUNG HELPS TO KEEP THE LAND CLEAN, HELPS PUT NUTRIENTS BACK INTO THE SOIL, ETC.)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Psalm 139:13–16) Did you notice how the dung beetle takes care of its babies? It starts when they are just a teeny-tiny little egg, by giving it all the food it will need when it hatches. Then, they stay near and care for their young, helping them grow. God cares for you the same way! When you were just a little, teeny-tiny egg in your mom's tummy, God designed her body to take care of everything you would need, even though you couldn't ask for it! Just like God cared for the Israelites' needs in the desert, He takes care of the needs we don't even know about! With all the people in our world, that's a lot of needs to think about, isn't it?





LET'S REVIEW!

It's been a fun week! We read about the Maasai and learned a little bit about their culture and their way of life in the savannas of Africa. We learned about gigantic elephants, powerful herbivores with amazing trunks. We read about tiny dung beetles, that put elephant dung to good use. We began to read words with the vowel pairs ee and ea making the long /ē/ sound in the middle. We practiced adding bigger numbers, solved story problems, and even got to study a painting of charging elephants! We read about how God provided food called *manna* for the Israelites when they were wandering in the wilderness. God provides for the needs of His creatures, big and small!

- What's your favorite thing you learned about elephants? What's your favorite thing you learned about dung beetles?
- What are two vowel pairs that can make the long /ē/ sound in the middle of a word? (*ee and ea*)
- What can you use to help you figure out how to add two numbers together? (*a number line, countable objects, picturing the numbers in your mind, etc.*)
- Who provides for all our needs? Can you name an example from the Bible or in your own life?

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

ADDITION RACE!

Play a game to practice building speed with adding. Use a deck of playing cards (take all the face cards out) or a pair of 10-sided dice, to practice addition facts, including those that add up past 10! You can set a timer for a certain length of time, such as a minute, and allow your child to race to roll the dice or draw two cards, add the numbers together, and call out or write down the answer. See how many addition problems your child can complete in one minute, and then try it again, encouraging them to try to beat the previous score! If your child gets stressed out by a time limit and doesn't find it fun, you can use this activity without a timer.

Father, thank you for providing for all our needs. Thank you for caring for us even when we don't know what to ask for. Help us to use our tools and remind us to ask you when we need help, rather than trying to do it on our own. In your name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER BREAK



THIS WEEK WE'LL COVER . . .

SCIENCE: UMBRELLA THORN ACACIA, GIRAFFES, SPOTTED HYENAS

You'll begin the week reading about the umbrella thorn acacia, an iconic tree of the savanna, which is designed perfectly for survival in a climate that's tough on trees! Later in the week, read about the lifestyle of giraffes and learn more about how a hyena really feels when he's cackling: hee-hee!

BIBLE: GOD HAS A PERFECT PLAN

This week, you will learn about the Tabernacle that God instructed Moses to build in the wilderness. Discover together how God provided the right materials in the right place and provided a perfect plan to build His home. At the end of the week, you will have the opportunity to think of ways you can show God's love by blessing others.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Your child will begin reading words that use the *oa* vowel combination that makes the /ō/ sound. Many activities throughout the week will reinforce this sound. In addition, your child will practice spelling and reading comprehension.

MATH: MONEY, ADDITION + SUBTRACTION, SOLVING FOR THE UNKNOWN

Your child will solve story problems involving money this week, continuing to practice addition past 10. Activities that allow your child to choose whether a math sentence needs a plus sign or a minus sign build problem-solving skills and a deeper understanding of mathematical operations. Solving for the unknown is a challenging skill for children to develop. Encourage your child to think about the stories that they solve, even retelling the story in their own words in order to understand how the numbers in the story are related to each other.

ART: PATTERN

Your child is invited to get creative by inventing a whole new pattern for a giraffe! Encourage your child to exercise their creative muscles and create a pattern that's very different from a real giraffe's natural pattern.

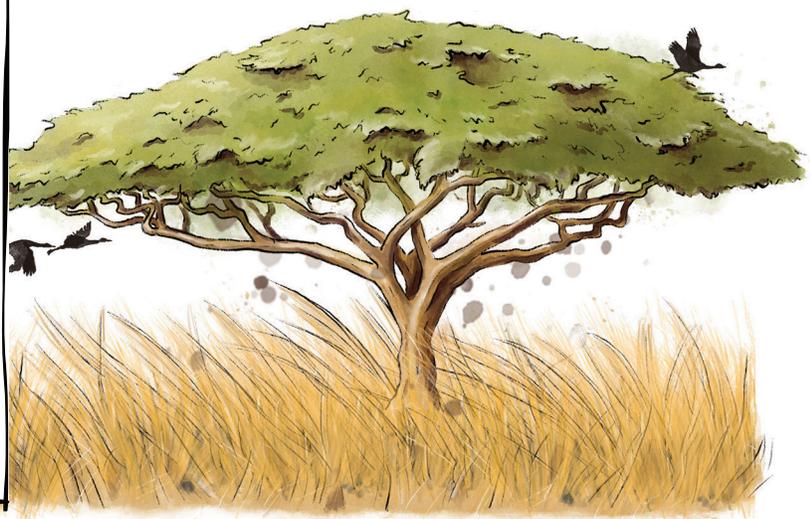
CHARACTER BUILDING

PRUDENCE

Do you know what it means to be a *prudent* person? Someone who is prudent makes wise choices. That person doesn't simply do the first thing that comes into their mind. Instead, they take the time to think carefully in order to make a good decision, rather than a foolish decision. You can be prudent with your money by not spending all your money on the first toy you see at the toy store. You can be prudent with your words by taking the time to think about your answer instead of just blurting out the first words that come to mind. Can you think of any opportunities that you might have to be prudent this week? If you take the time to think carefully about your choices before you do something, make sure you tell me, so that we can celebrate your prudent decision together.

LANGUAGE ARTS

RULE: *oa* says /ō/
SIGHT WORD: *from*
BLEND: *-st*



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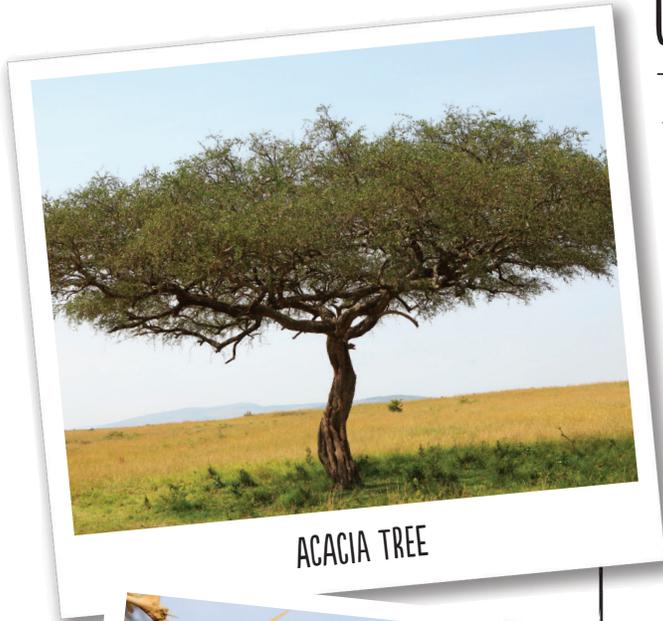
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UMBRELLA THORN ACACIA EXODUS 36:20, 37:1, 10, 25

OA SAYS /O/ SPOONER BUCKS LET'S SPEND MONEY! A PLACE TO WORSHIP



ACACIA TREE



SPIKY THORNS

UMBRELLA THORN ACACIA

The savanna is entirely different from the dense, tree-packed forests and jungles of the world. Maybe that's why the acacia tree stands out—because it's one of the very few types of trees that can survive here! The acacia stands tall above the grasses that stir in the breeze. There are many different species of acacia trees, but today, let's look closer at the umbrella thorn acacia. This tree has the perfect characteristics to help it thrive in the savanna. It can withstand both the high daytime temperatures and the low nighttime temperatures of this region. If you look at the shape of the tree, you can see where it gets the word *umbrella* in its name!

This tree sports many, many tiny leaves in an umbrella-shaped canopy of branches. The small size of the leaves helps prevent the tree from losing too much water through its leaves. The branches also have many thorns to help discourage herbivores from taking a bite. When a hungry herbivore starts munching away, however, acacia trees have another way to defend themselves. They can release *tannins*; compounds that make their leaves start to taste really yucky! These make sure that an herbivore that's tough enough to eat around the thorns, won't be able to eat too many of the acacia tree's leaves! These trees also send a root deep, deep into the earth. This helps them to survive even during the dry season, when months may go by without any rain.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



THE CANOPY OF THIS ACACIA TREE IS SHAPED LIKE AN . . . ? (UMBRELLA)



HOW DO ACACIA TREES PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM HUNGRY HERBIVORES? (THORNS AND BAD-TASTING TANNINS)



HOW DO ACACIA TREES SURVIVE DRY SEASONS? (AN EXTRA-LONG ROOT REACHES WATER DEEP IN THE GROUND)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Exodus 36:20, 37:1, 10, 25) Did you know that there are acacia trees in the Bible? When God's people left Egypt and were wandering in the wilderness, God told them to build the Tabernacle (a special house where God would visit them). The Tabernacle couldn't be made of stones because it had to move when the Israelites moved. A stone building would be a lot of work to take apart when you had to pack up your campsite, wouldn't it? God's Tabernacle was inside a special tent that had many things made for it as part of the Israelites' worship. Many of these items were made from acacia wood!



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GIRAFFES

PROVERBS 16:3-4A

LONG O. SHORT O

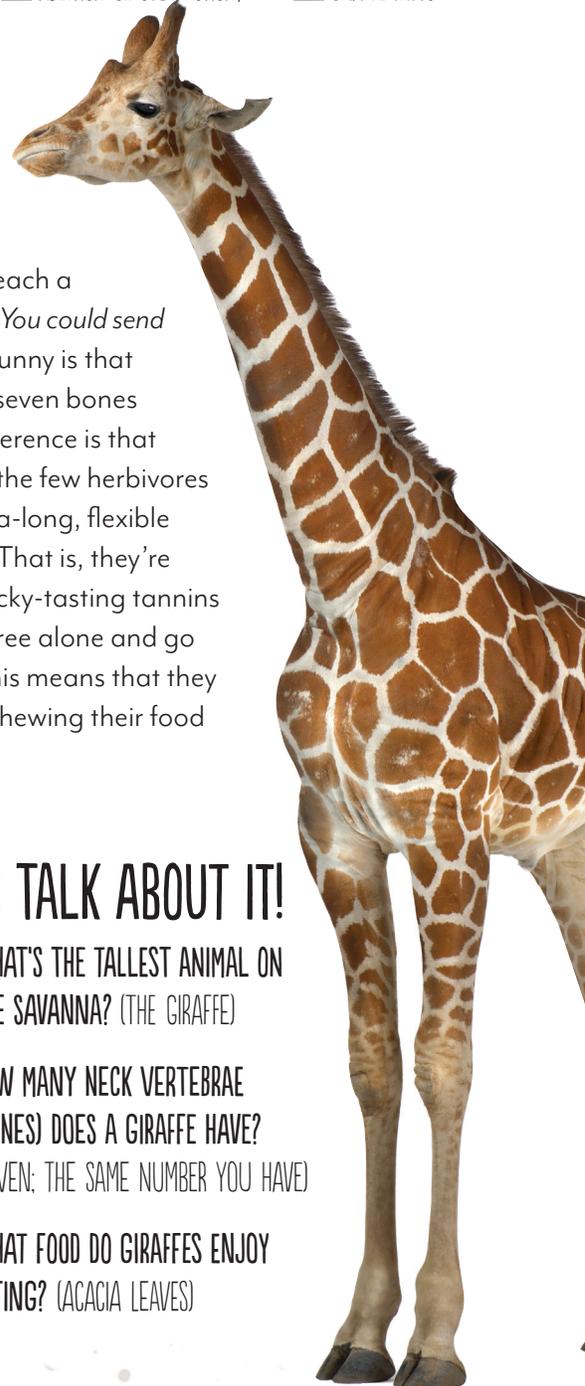
SIGHT WORD: FROM

ADDITION OR SUBTRACTION?

GIRAFFE FACTS

GIRAFFES

You'll have to look up, up, up to look this creature in the face! The elephant might be the biggest and heaviest animal of the savanna, but the giraffe is definitely the tallest! Male giraffes, called *bulls*, are taller than females and can reach a height of more than 18 feet (5.5 m). (*Show your child approximately how tall this is. You could send them up to the second story of the house or use a tree outside as a reference!*) What's funny is that giraffes have the exact same number of bones in their neck as you do! You have seven bones (called vertebrae) that make up your neck, and giraffes have seven, too! The difference is that each of those seven bones is much, much longer in a giraffe! Giraffes are one of the few herbivores who can tackle the thorny acacia in order to munch on its leaves. They have extra-long, flexible tongues that are able to strip those yummy leaves right off the thorny branches. That is, they're able to keep chewing on those leaves until the acacia tree starts releasing the yucky-tasting tannins we read about in the last lesson. When that happens, the giraffe will leave that tree alone and go in search of something else to eat. Like cows and sheep, giraffes *chew the cud*. This means that they bring food they've already chewed back up into their mouths to chew it again. Chewing their food again helps the giraffe to digest it better!



BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Proverbs 16:3-4a) Today we learned that giraffes like to eat the leaves of the acacia tree. God made them with long, stretched out necks, so they could reach the branches. God provided for the Israelites, too! Building the Tabernacle in the wilderness for God was hard work. The Israelites were asked to give money, possessions, and time to build this place for God to dwell. When we choose to put God first and give Him our best, He provides what we need. He provided those acacia trees to the Israelites, so they would have the materials needed for His house in the wilderness. The uniqueness of the tree's design provides shade for people traveling through the blazing hot savanna, and it provided the wood needed to make a home for God among His people as they traveled through the desert.



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHAT'S THE TALLEST ANIMAL ON THE SAVANNA? (THE GIRAFFE)



HOW MANY NECK VERTEBRAE (BONES) DOES A GIRAFFE HAVE? (SEVEN; THE SAME NUMBER YOU HAVE)



WHAT FOOD DO GIRAFFES ENJOY EATING? (ACACIA LEAVES)



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GIRAFFES

EXODUS 25:8-9

SPELLING

ALL ABOUT ME

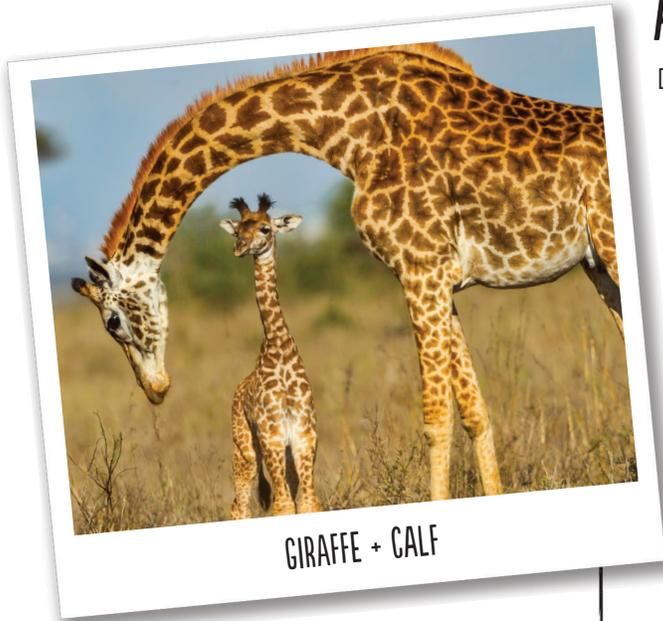
SOLVE FOR THE UNKNOWN WITH MONEY

PATTERN

A PARTICULAR PATTERN

Did you know that each giraffe has a completely unique pattern of patches on its fur? Just like your fingerprints are different from the fingerprints of any other person on Earth, no two giraffes have identical fur patterns. Like most patterns you'll see in nature, the giraffe's patches help provide it with camouflage. The colors help it blend in with the tawny colors of the savanna and the dappled light under the acacia trees where it feeds. Unlike the sleepy lions we've learned about, giraffes spend very little time sleeping! It's estimated that they only sleep for about 5-30 minutes within a 24-hour period. Can you imagine how tired you'd be if that's all the sleep you got? Both lions and crocodiles are natural predators of the giraffe. Giraffes are speedy runners (thanks to those long legs!) and have also been known to throw powerful kicks at an attacking predator in order to defend themselves.

Living in groups, called *herds*, also helps giraffes to watch out for predators. If one giraffe in the herd spots a lion, that one giraffe is able to warn all the others that it's time to run! A baby giraffe is called a *calf*. Often, one mother will "babysit" a group of calves from her herd, so that the other mothers have a chance to go eat and drink, while knowing that their babies are safe.



GIRAFFE + CALF

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



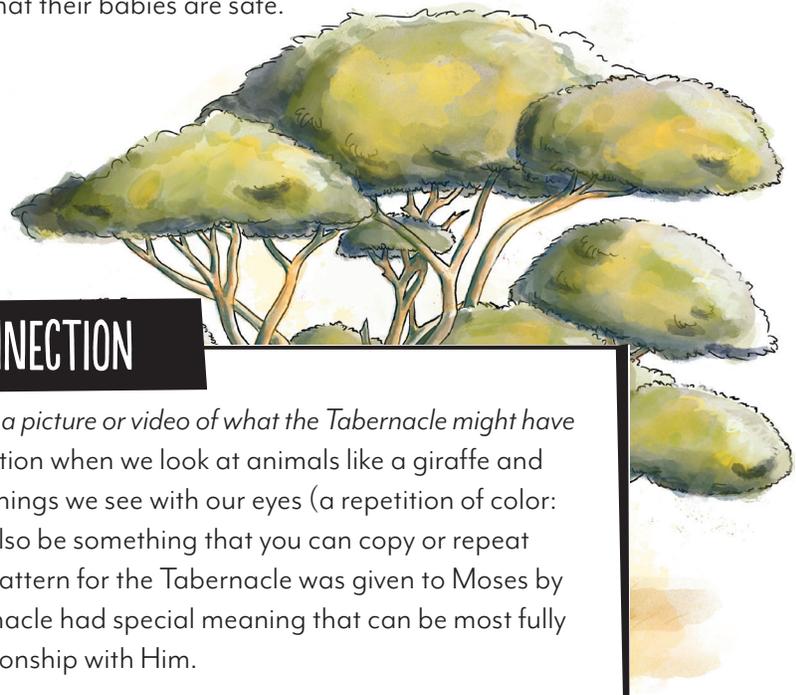
WHICH ANIMAL SLEEPS MORE EACH DAY, A LION OR A GIRAFFE? (A LION)



WHAT ARE SOME WAYS A GIRAFFE CAN DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST PREDATORS? (RUNNING FAST OR KICKING)



WHAT IS A BABY GIRAFFE CALLED? (A CALF)



BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Exodus 25:8-9. You could also look online for a picture or video of what the Tabernacle might have looked like.) It is easy to see patterns in God's creation when we look at animals like a giraffe and its beautiful pattern of patches. Patterns can be things we see with our eyes (a repetition of color: blue, blue, red, blue, blue, red, . . .), or they can also be something that you can copy or repeat on your own (a sewing or knitting pattern). The pattern for the Tabernacle was given to Moses by God Himself, and many of the items in the Tabernacle had special meaning that can be most fully understood through Jesus and by being in a relationship with Him.



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SPOTTED HYENA

PHILIPPIANS 2:4

LET'S READ!

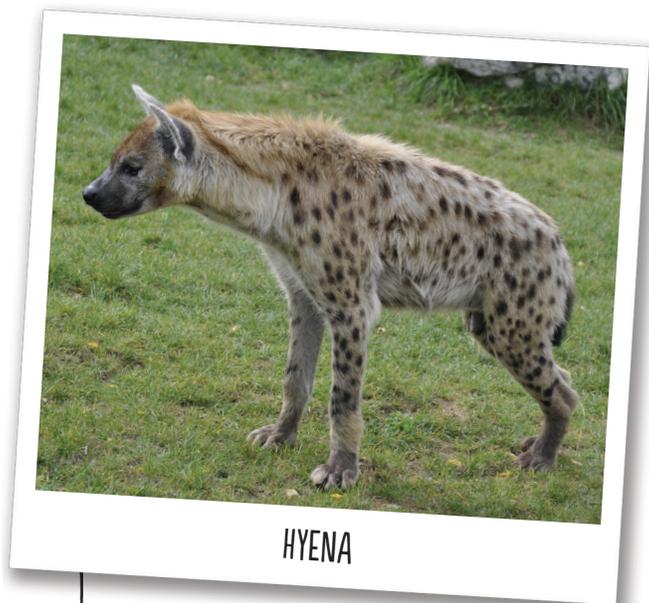
READING COMPREHENSION

REVIEW

WISE CHOICES WITH MONEY

SPOTTED HYENA

Hee-hee-hee! Hee-hee-hee! The spotted hyena is known for its “laugh.” It makes a variety of sounds to communicate with other hyenas, including the high-pitched giggle or cackle that it is famous for. The hyena doesn’t laugh because it thinks something is funny! In fact, it’s thought that a hyena often makes this sound when it’s feeling threatened or nervous. Hyenas are carnivores. They are scavengers that will eat carrion that was left behind by other predators, but they are also fierce hunters. Spotted hyenas typically live in large groups called *clans*. Individually, hyenas will hunt for small prey, but when they work together with the rest of their clan, they can take down large animals such as wildebeest and even young rhinos. Hyenas are known to be very intelligent, but their fierce nature doesn’t help them get along well with other creatures of the savanna. Clans of hyenas have even been known to chase lions off of a carcass, so they can take it for themselves! What’s unusual about hyenas is that when they eat, they really do eat every part of the carcass. Their powerful jaws and teeth allow them to eat bones, skin, teeth, and horns. Hyenas have long been considered a nuisance when they live too close to people. This is because they will steal and kill livestock, and they will even find their way into food storage buildings.



HYENA

LISTEN! Find a video or audio recording of a hyena’s laugh to listen to!

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



DO HYENAS LAUGH BECAUSE THEY THINK SOMETHING IS FUNNY? (NO)



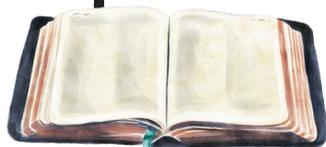
WHAT DO YOU CALL A GROUP OF HYENAS THAT LIVES AND HUNTS TOGETHER? (A CLAN)

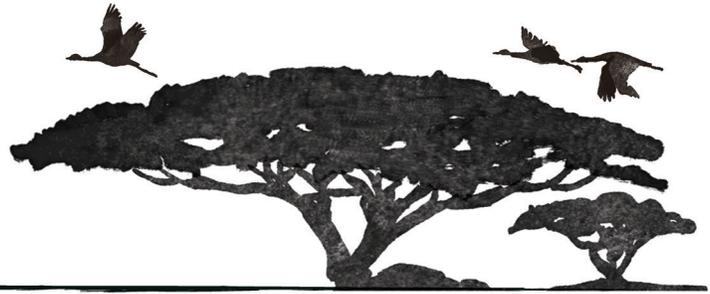


WHAT UNUSUAL THINGS CAN A HYENA EAT? (BONES, SKIN, TEETH, HORNS)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read *Philippians 2:4*) Sometimes it is easy to want to be unkind to others. When someone has something we want, it is tempting to try to take it from them, just like a clan of hyenas will try to steal another animal’s meal. The Bible tells us we should look out for others and love others, not steal from them. Can you think of a way that you can share God’s love with someone else today through kindness? Come up with three or four ways you think you could show kindness today, and do your best to follow through with at least one of them today! Pray and ask Jesus to help you bless someone every day.





LET'S REVIEW!

Do you remember everything we learned about this week? Umbrella thorn acacia trees thrive in the savanna because of their deep roots and the thorns that protect them from being nibbled on by *most* herbivores. The giraffe, however, with his long, flexible tongue, is still able to munch away on acacia leaves. His long neck helps him to spot any predators before they get too close! Speaking of predators, we also got to learn about the laughing hyena. This animal giggles even when there's nothing funny to laugh at! We began to read words with the vowel pair *oa* making the long /ō/ sound in the middle. We practiced adding and subtracting, thought about how to spend money prudently, and even got to design a whole new pattern for a giraffe! We read about the Tabernacle, the special tent that God commanded the Israelites to build as a place to worship Him alone.

- What is one interesting thing you learned about giraffes? What is one interesting thing you learned about hyenas?
- Can you name one word with a long /ō/ sound in the middle?
- If you had 20 bucks in real life, what would you spend that money on?
- God gave Moses a pattern for a house in the wilderness. What was it called? (*the Tabernacle*)

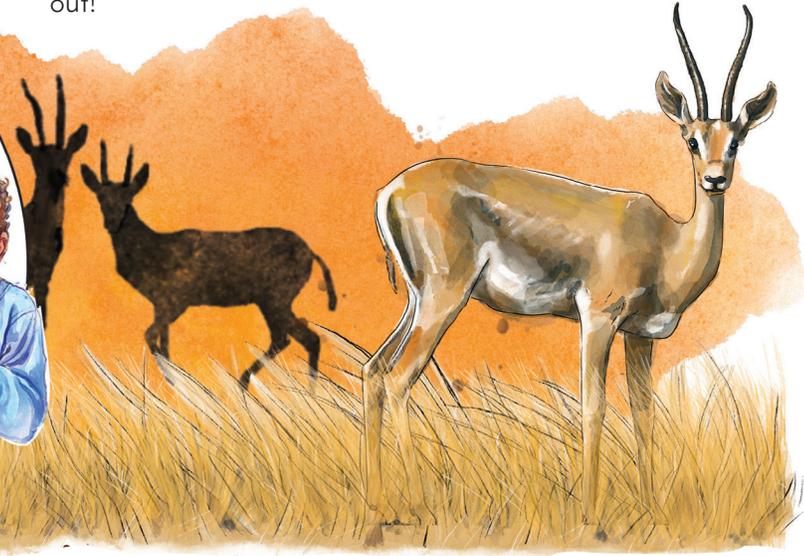
OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

SWAT THE WORD!

Prepare for this game by placing sight word flashcards and any other word flashcards that you'd like to practice with your child on a flat surface. You can use a tabletop, or if you'd like a game that involves more running around, you can scatter them on the floor of a room. Give your child a flyswatter, spatula, or any other similar utensil. (you could even use an empty paper towel roll in a pinch!) and call out a word. Have your child race to swat the word that you called out as quickly as they can. For extra fun, switch roles and have your child call out words for you to swat. This still gives your child reading practice, as they have to know what words are on the cards in order to call them out!

PRAYER BREAK

Thank you that you provide everything we need, Jesus. Thank you for the tall, strong acacia tree and all the insects, animals, and people that it helps. Help us to remember that you know everything we need even before we ask for it! In your name. Amen.





THIS WEEK WE'LL COVER . . .

SCIENCE: DROUGHT, CHEETAHS, BLACK MAMBAS

Begin the week reading about drought. Your child will learn what a drought is, and they are invited to consider how drought affects all living things on the savanna. You'll spend the rest of the week learning about two speedy creatures of the savannah: cheetahs and black mambas!

BIBLE: GOD HAS AMAZING POWERS

God has amazing powers that you will learn about this week, and your child is introduced to some big—but important—words to describe these powers. Together, you will learn about Jesus as the living water and that a miraculous encounter with a snake in Paul's life allowed people on the island of Malta to see God's goodness.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Your child will begin reading words that use the *ui*, *ue*, and *ew* digraphs to make the /ū/ sound. Note that there are words in which you can find these letter pairs making other sounds, but don't worry about introducing every possible sound to your child right now. Focus on words featuring the long /ū/ sound this week. Many activities throughout the week will reinforce this sound. In addition, your child will review the soft and hard *c* and *g* sounds, as well as practice reading comprehension.

MATH: SKIP COUNTING BY 2S

This week, your child is introduced to the skill of skip counting by 2s. Reinforce this skill by giving them the opportunity to skip count in rhythm every day this week. They will continue to practice solving for the unknown and bolstering problem-solving skills through a variety of math activities.

ART: DRAWING WHAT YOU SEE

Your child will have the opportunity to practice an important skill that's honed by artists around the world: the ability to draw what they see. Encourage your child to slow down and really look closely at the photograph of the cheetah before jumping in to draw a picture.

SOCIAL STUDIES: NATURAL DISASTERS

Explore the concept of natural disasters, including drought, with this activity page in the student book. Feel free to extend the conversation by sharing about any of your own experiences with different types of natural disasters, and talk about the human response to such disasters.

LANGUAGE ARTS

RULE: *ui, ue, and ew* say /ū/
SIGHT WORD: *said*
BLEND: *scr-*

LIFESTYLE OF LEARNING

Seek to cultivate a general attitude of curiosity in your child. When reading about a topic, encourage your child to ask questions, and if they do have questions, take the time to dive deeper and go further. Curiosity, the realization that there's more to learn about everything, is a trait that will benefit a person throughout their life. We can encourage this attitude by our response to questions.



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DROUGHT

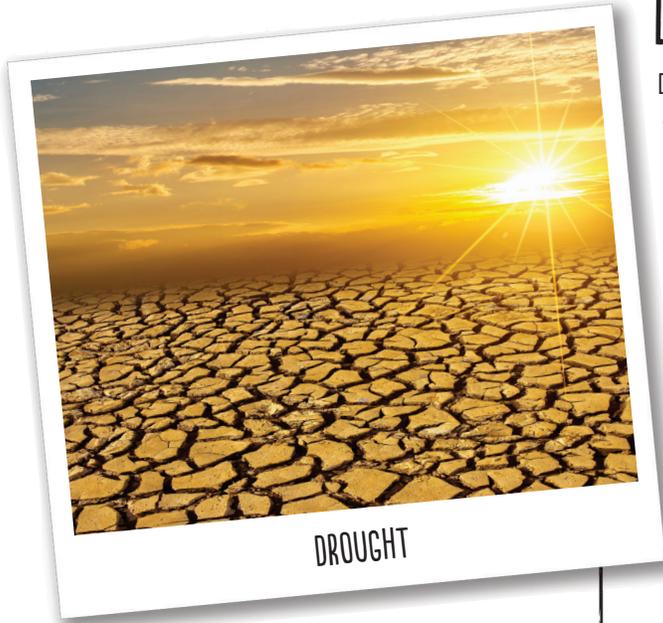
JOHN 4:14

U.I. UE. AND EW SAY /Ū/

HARD + SOFT C, G

SKIP COUNTING BY 2S

NATURAL DISASTERS



DROUGHT

Do you know what will happen to a potted plant if it goes too long without being watered? Without water, a plant will die. In fact, every living thing needs water to survive, including you! When a particular area has much less rain than normal, it's called a *drought*. Savannas are a naturally dry climate in comparison to the forests and rainforests of the world. Savannas normally have wet seasons and dry seasons. Both the animals and plants of the savanna are designed to survive with seasons of rainfall and seasons without rainfall. However, when the wet season doesn't bring its normal rain with it, or the dry season lasts far too long, it is considered a drought. This lack of rainfall has a big effect on living things in the savanna. Trees may die. Animals may have to wander farther in order to find a watering hole. Wildfires become more frequent. People's lives are also heavily affected by drought.

Nomadic people groups like the Maasai may lose many of their cattle due to lack of food and water. Farmers may lose their crops. During a drought, governments will often ask people to limit how much water they use. God designed everything that lives to need water—without enough rain, life is hard for the plants, animals, and people of the savanna.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

 WHAT NEEDS WATER? (EVERY LIVING THING)

 CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT A DROUGHT IS? (WHEN THERE ISN'T A NORMAL AMOUNT OF RAIN)

 WHY DO THE MAASAI'S CATTLE DIE WHEN THERE IS A DROUGHT? (LACK OF FOOD AND WATER)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read John 4:14) When you are outside on a hot day playing hard, a cold drink of water is very refreshing. Jesus lived in a hot, dry climate just like the climate we are learning about. One day, He was by a well (which is a deep hole that has water in it) and asked a woman for some water. As He spoke to her, He talked about living water: water that would make it so you would never be thirsty again. However, He didn't mean water in a cup. He was talking about what happens when you believe in Him. He can fill all of the empty, thirsty places in your heart with His love, and when you invite Him to, the Holy Spirit will continue to fill you up with God's love every day!





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CHEETAHS

PROVERBS 15:3

READING GAME

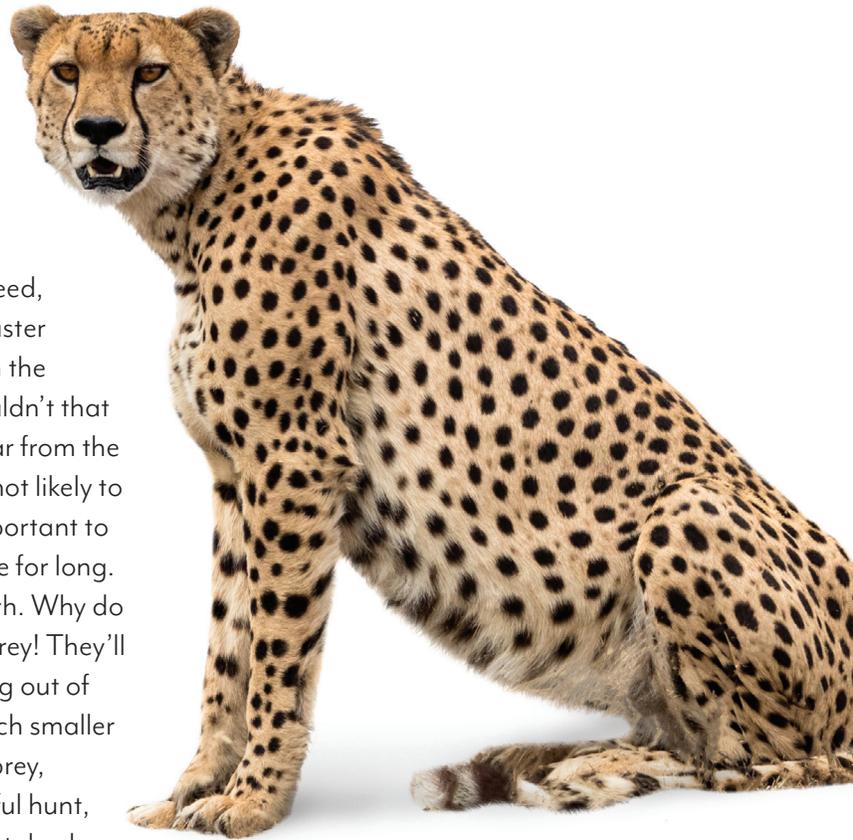
SIGHT WORD: SAID

SKIP COUNTING BY 2S

DRAWING WHAT YOU SEE

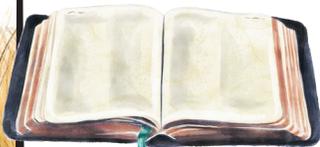
CHEETAHS

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have a superpower like *superspeed*? The cheetah is a real-life example of *superspeed*, as the fastest mammal on Earth! A cheetah can run faster than any giraffe or lion, and it is even much faster than the speediest racehorse! At top speed, a cheetah clocks in around 70 mph (112 km/h), which is faster than the speed limit on most roads! Imagine driving down the road and seeing a cheetah zoom right past your car. Wouldn't that be a sight? Cheetahs make their home on the savanna, far from the neighborhood streets where your family drives, so you're not likely to ever see a cheetah running at full speed in real life. It's important to know that cheetahs can't keep up their super-speedy pace for long. After a sprint, the cheetah needs to stop to catch its breath. Why do cheetahs run so fast? Their speed helps them hunt their prey! They'll stalk their prey, getting as close as possible before bursting out of the grass to chase and capture their next meal. Being much smaller than lions, cheetahs tend to hunt small to medium-sized prey, including rabbits, ostriches, and gazelles. After a successful hunt, a cheetah tries to eat quickly, so that their meal won't be stolen by lions, hyenas, or vultures. Who knew that fighting over food could happen out on the savanna?



BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Proverbs 15:3) The Cheetah's superspeed is amazing, and it is easy to think about how great it would be to have a superpower like that. Did you know that God has superpowers? God is *omniscient*. That means that He sees and knows EVERYTHING. He sees every good thing you've ever done and every bad thing, too. Even more, He knows what is in your heart. You might be thinking, "Uh-oh! Somedays I think and do some bad things!" The most amazing thing about God's omniscience, is that He still loves and wants a relationship with each person He has created.



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



CAN A CHEETAH RUN QUICKLY FOR A VERY LONG DISTANCE? (NO)



WHICH IS BIGGER, A LION OR A CHEETAH? (A LION)



WHY DOES A CHEETAH EAT QUICKLY? (SO THAT ITS MEAL WON'T BE STOLEN BY OTHER ANIMALS)

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CHEETAH

JEREMIAH 32:17 + PSALM 139:7-10

SOLVE FOR THE UNKNOWN

SENTENCES + SPELLING FUN!

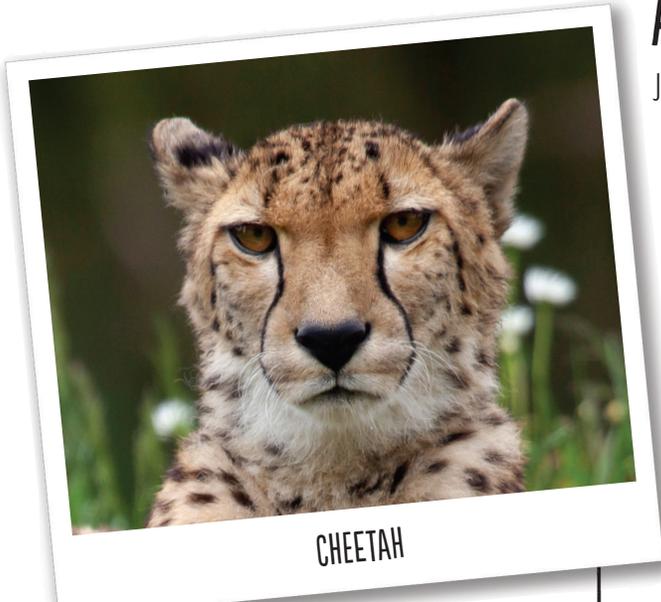
ALL ABOUT ME

JEREMIAH 32:17

A CHEETAH'S SPOTS

Just look at this cat! His large amber eyes are the source of his excellent vision—which helps him spot his next meal. His spotted coat looks beautiful to us, but can you guess what else those spots are good for? They help camouflage this hunter as he crouches in the long grass on the savannas. Some people think that it's hard to tell cheetahs, leopards, and jaguars apart just by looking at them. However, if you look closely at their spots, you'll notice that each kind of cat has their own type of pattern! Cheetahs have individual spots, leopards have spots arranged in rosettes, and jaguars have rosettes with a spot in the center of each one. Cheetahs aren't like lions, who normally live in prides. However, cheetahs aren't totally solitary, either. Male cheetahs (typically brothers) can be found living in small groups, called *coalitions*, and mother cheetahs will

live with their babies, called *cubs*. Today, cheetahs are considered a "vulnerable" species, meaning that the number of cheetahs living in the wild has dropped so low that scientists worry they could be at risk of extinction. These speedy creatures thrive in the wide-open land of the savanna. When there isn't enough land for them to live and hunt the way they were designed to, it becomes hard for the cheetah to survive.



CHEETAH



CHEETAH FUR



LEOPARD FUR



JAGUAR FUR

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHAT ARE BABY CHEETAHS CALLED? (CUBS)



WHAT DO YOU CALL A GROUP OF CHEETAH BROTHERS LIVING TOGETHER? (A COALITION)



CAN YOU DESCRIBE HOW TO TELL CHEETAH SPOTS FROM THE SPOTS OF LEOPARDS OR JAGUARS? (CHEETAHS HAVE INDIVIDUAL SPOTS, LEOPARDS HAVE SPOTS ARRANGED IN ROSETTES, AND JAGUARS HAVE ROSETTES WITH A SPOT IN THE CENTER OF EACH ONE.)

Gather 'Round

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Jeremiah 32:17 and Psalm 139:7-10) Yesterday, we talked about how God knows everything. We call this *omniscience*. God also has two other superpowers with kind of strange names. God is *omnipotent*. Omnipotence means that He is ALL POWERFUL. There is nothing that is too hard for God! He is also *omnipresent*. This means that He can be everywhere at once. He is with you while you do school, and He is also in the African savanna. He knows the number of hairs on your head and how many mother cheetahs are hunting for their cubs right now. God has the ultimate superpowers!



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- BLACK MAMBA
- ACTS 28:1-6

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- LET'S READ!

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- READING COMPREHENSION

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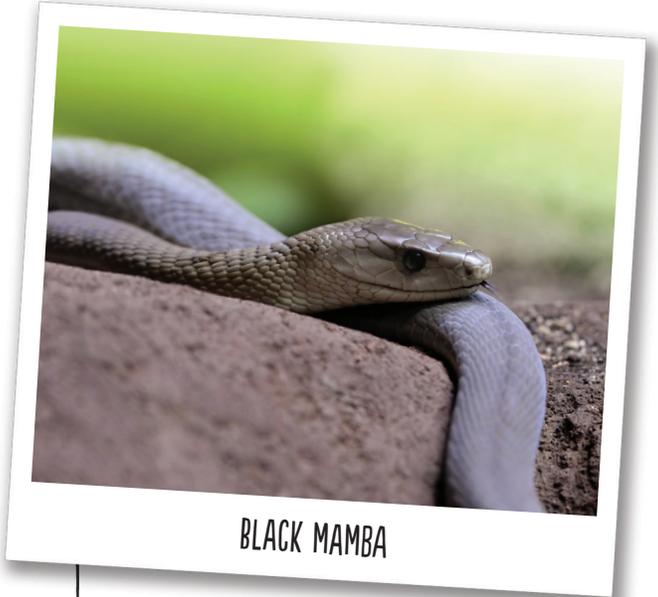
- REVIEW

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- REPTILE CHARACTERISTICS

BLACK MAMBAS

The cheetah might get all of the attention for being the fastest mammal on land, but it's not the only speedy creature on the savanna! The black mamba is one of the fastest snakes on land, able to slither along on its belly at speeds of more than 12 mph (19 km/h). That's not nearly as fast as a cheetah, of course, but that is some really speedy slithering! They are long snakes, with lengths ranging from 6.5-14 feet (2-4.2 m)! (*Show your child approximately how long this is.*) You might notice by looking at its photo, that the black mamba isn't actually black! These snakes tend to be gray or brownish in color. The "black" in its name actually refers to the color of the inside of its mouth! Black mambas are shy and will usually try to slither away speedily when they encounter a threat. However, these snakes are extremely venomous, meaning that they inject a highly toxic venom when they bite. They can use this venom to protect themselves against any larger predator, but they also use it when hunting their own prey: mainly small rodents, birds, and lizards. Like many other snakes, black mambas swallow their food whole; no chewing necessary! Because a black mamba's venom is deadly, people don't usually want to get close to this speedy snake of the savanna!



BLACK MAMBA

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHY IS THIS SNAKE CALLED THE BLACK MAMBA? (THE INSIDE OF ITS MOUTH IS BLACK)



ARE BLACK MAMBAS VENOMOUS? (YES)

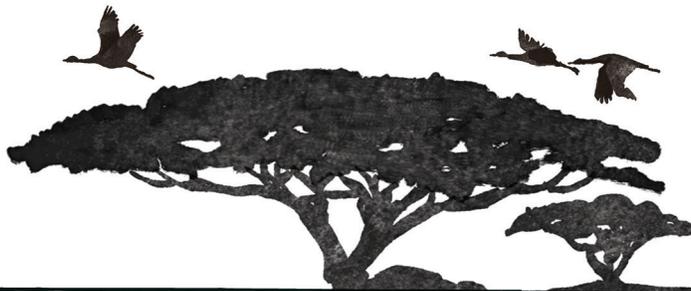


DO BLACK MAMBAS CHEW THEIR FOOD? (NO)



BIBLE CONNECTION

(*Read Acts 28:1-6*) The apostle Paul had many amazing stories of God's faithfulness in his life. In this passage, Paul had been shipwrecked and washed up on an island. As they were warming up by a fire, a snake bit his hand, and he shook it off into the fire. The people who lived on the island recognized it as a venomous snake and waited for Paul to die, but he didn't. The people were amazed and thought it was because Paul was someone really special, but it was actually because Paul *knew* someone really special: God! God continued to work amazing miracles through Paul while he was there.



LET'S REVIEW!

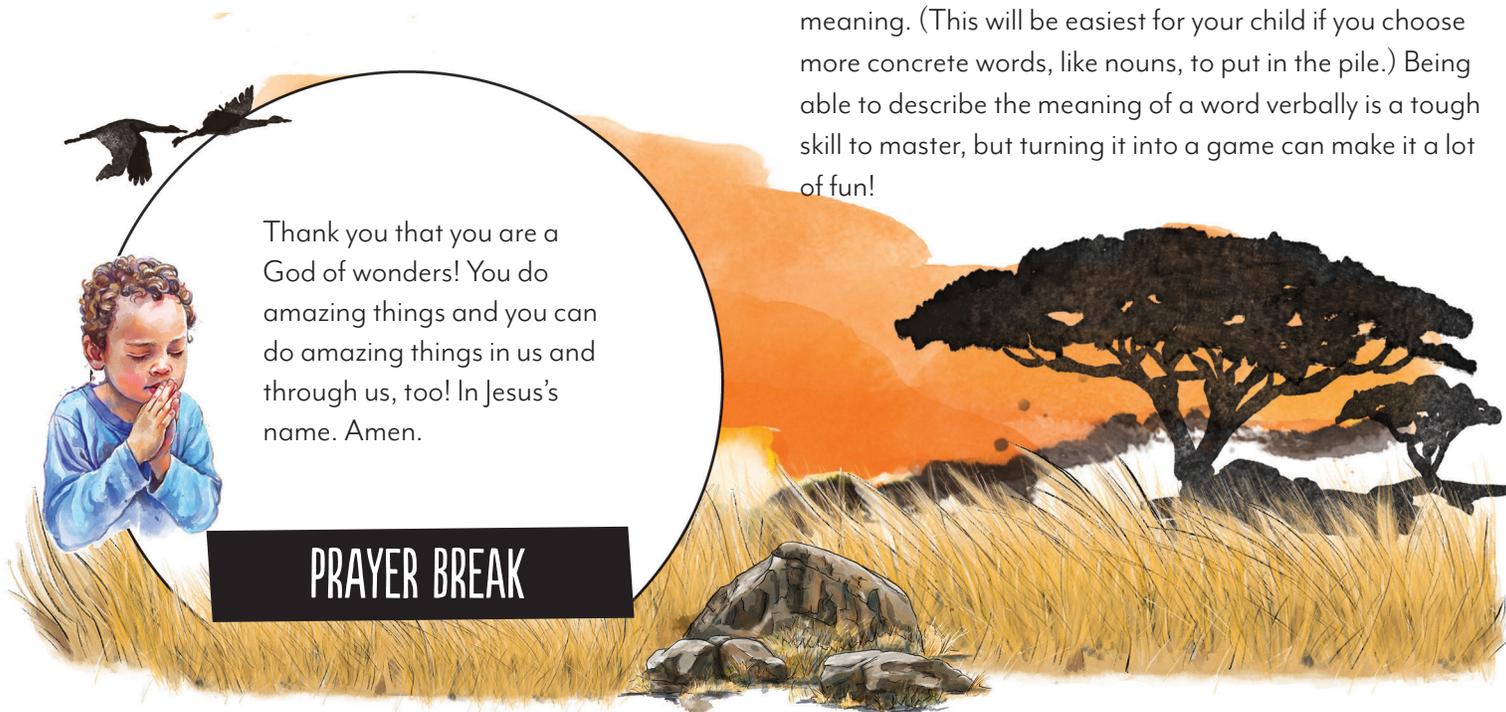
Did you enjoy our savanna adventures this week? Drought is a natural disaster that can make life hard for the people, animals, and plants of the savanna. All of life relies on fresh water and rainfall! We read about two speedy animals this week: the cheetah and the black mamba! The cheetah is the fastest animal on land, but the black mamba is pretty fast, too, especially considering that it doesn't have any legs! We practiced reading words with the long /ū/ sound, made by the letter pairs *ui*, *ue*, and *ew*. We learned how to count by 2s, practiced solving story problems, and even drew a picture of a cheetah! We read about how awesomely powerful God is, too!

- Can you describe a cheetah to me? Can you describe a black mamba to me?
- Tell me one word with a long /ū/ sound and one word with a short /ŭ/ sound.
- Can you count by 2s?
- What is one of God's amazing powers? (*He knows everything [omniscient]. He can do anything [omnipotent]. He is everywhere [omnipresent]!*)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

GUESS THE WORD

Take out word flashcards that you have from any Ready to Read unit or write words on slips of paper (be sure to choose words that your child will be able to read), and then play a game! Take turns picking up a slip of paper, reading the word silently to yourself, and then describing the word in a way that can help the other player guess what word is on the paper. When the other player guesses the meaning of the word correctly (or gives up!), then it's that player's turn to draw a slip of paper and describe its meaning. (This will be easiest for your child if you choose more concrete words, like nouns, to put in the pile.) Being able to describe the meaning of a word verbally is a tough skill to master, but turning it into a game can make it a lot of fun!



Thank you that you are a God of wonders! You do amazing things and you can do amazing things in us and through us, too! In Jesus's name. Amen.

PRAYER BREAK



THIS WEEK WE'LL COVER . . .

SCIENCE: SAVANNA ECOSYSTEM, ZEBRAS, DEVIL'S FLOWER MANTIS

Start off the week reading about the savanna ecosystem. The concept of food webs is introduced as a way of understanding the interconnections between the plants and animals within an ecosystem. You'll spend the rest of the week learning about zebras as well as the devil's flower mantis: a large insect with a colorful display that is used to startle off potential predators!

BIBLE: JESUS WANTS TO BE YOUR BEST FRIEND!

This week, we will begin by learning about the divine ecosystem of relying on God for direction. As you move through the lessons, you'll cover ideas about humanity's inherent creativity and how this points us back to God. You will learn about listening to the Holy Spirit for direction and the importance of Jesus becoming your best friend, so you are safe from the devil's tricks.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Your child will begin reading words that use the *ou* and *ow* digraphs to make the /ow/ sound. Note that there are words in which you can find these letter pairs making other sounds, but don't worry about introducing every possible sound to your child right now. Focus on words featuring the /ow/ sound this week. Many activities throughout the week

will reinforce this sound. In addition, your child will learn about syllables and will practice counting the number of syllables in a word.

MATH: EVEN + ODD NUMBERS

While continuing to practice counting by 2s, your child is introduced to the concept of even and odd numbers. Try to bring the even and odd concept into everyday conversations. You can incorporate evens and odds into snacktime, asking your child to divide countable snack items into two equal groups.

ART: EVEN + ODD ART PROJECT

Many people use art as a way to learn. The act of creating beautiful learning materials can help cement information, so it is not easily forgotten. Your child is invited to use cutouts from the appendix of their book and whatever art supplies you provide, to create a poster about even and odd numbers.

SOCIAL STUDIES: CARDINAL DIRECTIONS

Tying into the topic of migrating zebras, your child will practice understanding the directional relationship between two locations on a map of Africa and its surroundings.

LIFE SKILLS

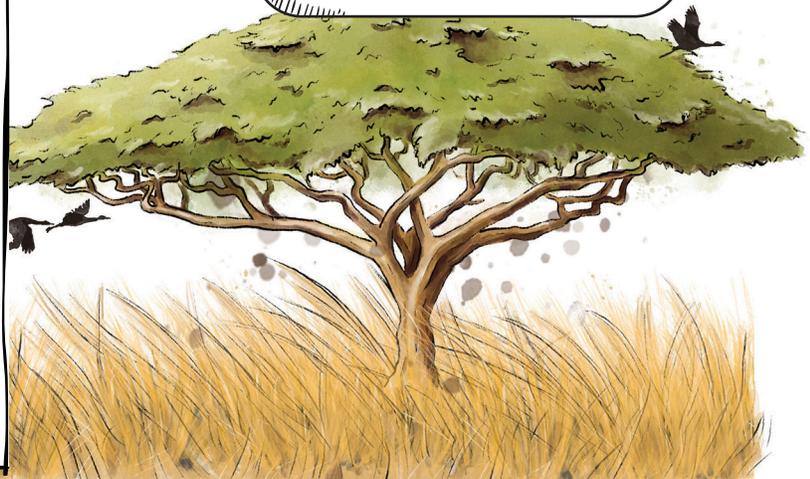
Here are two life skills to practice this week. One is a hands-on skill, and the other is a memory topic. If your child already knows these well, feel free to skip this. If these are more challenging for your child, feel free to spend more than a week practicing the skills.

Learn an outdoor skill—whichever is most appropriate to the season! Raking leaves, shoveling snow, weeding the flowerbed, picking up sticks from the yard, etc.

Choose a short poem to memorize and prepare to recite it for family or friends.

LANGUAGE ARTS

RULE: *ou* and *ow* can say /ow/
SIGHT WORD: *any, many*
BLEND: *-nce*





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SAVANNA ECOSYSTEM

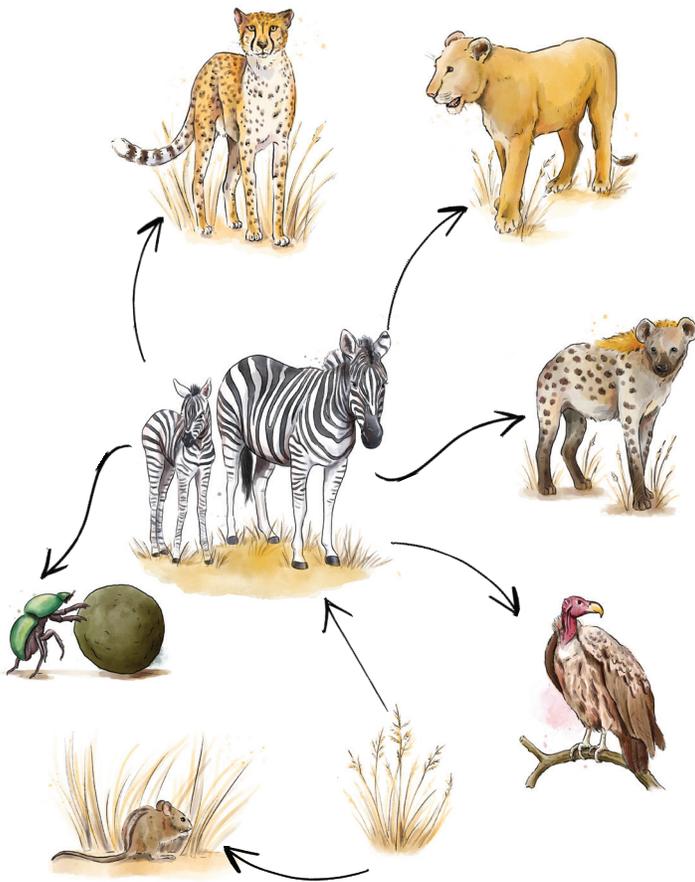
COLOSSIANS 1:16-17

-OW + -OU SAY /OW/

SYLLABLES

SKIP COUNTING BY 2S

FOOD WEB PUZZLE



THE SAVANNA ECOSYSTEM

An *ecosystem* is all the living and non-living things that exist together in a particular environment. In every ecosystem, there are *producers* (plants), *consumers* (herbivores and carnivores), and *decomposers* (bacteria, fungi, and some insects, like termites). The ecosystem of the savanna may look very different from the natural ecosystems near you. Everything that lives and grows in your local pond or forest ecosystem needs everything else in that ecosystem in order to thrive. In the same way, all living things in the savanna need all the others! When we think about ecosystems, we usually start to think about food chains. An animal at the top of the food chain, like the lion, needs herbivores, like zebras, to eat. Zebras rely on the grass that covers the savanna in order to fill their tummies! Meanwhile, after the lion has eaten his fill, vultures come to feed on what the lion left behind, cleaning up the lion's leftovers! Many different food chains like this combine to form something that looks a little bit more complicated: a *food web*! If one type of animal that naturally belongs in a certain ecosystem was taken away, that loss would affect all the other living things in the food web. It's important to care about the natural balance that God designed for ecosystems.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHAT'S THE WORD TO DESCRIBE ALL LIVING AND NON-LIVING THINGS THAT EXIST TOGETHER IN A PARTICULAR ENVIRONMENT? (ECOSYSTEM)



WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO LIONS IF THERE WERE NO MORE ZEBRAS? (LIONS MIGHT NOT HAVE ENOUGH FOOD)



WHO DESIGNED THE ECOSYSTEMS OF THE EARTH? (GOD)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Colossians 1:16-17) The Bible says that all things were created through Jesus. When we have a relationship with Him, the world around us makes more sense. Just like the natural ecosystems He created, our relationship with our family and God is like an ecosystem. We learn to rely on our parents to show us what is right and wrong and for food at a young age. As you get older, you will learn how to get and prepare more and more of your own food. Your parents will start to expect you to know right from wrong, and you will learn to rely on the Holy Spirit to fill you up and show you how to live to please God, even in tricky situations.

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ZEBRAS

GENESIS 1:31

-OU + -OW PRACTICE

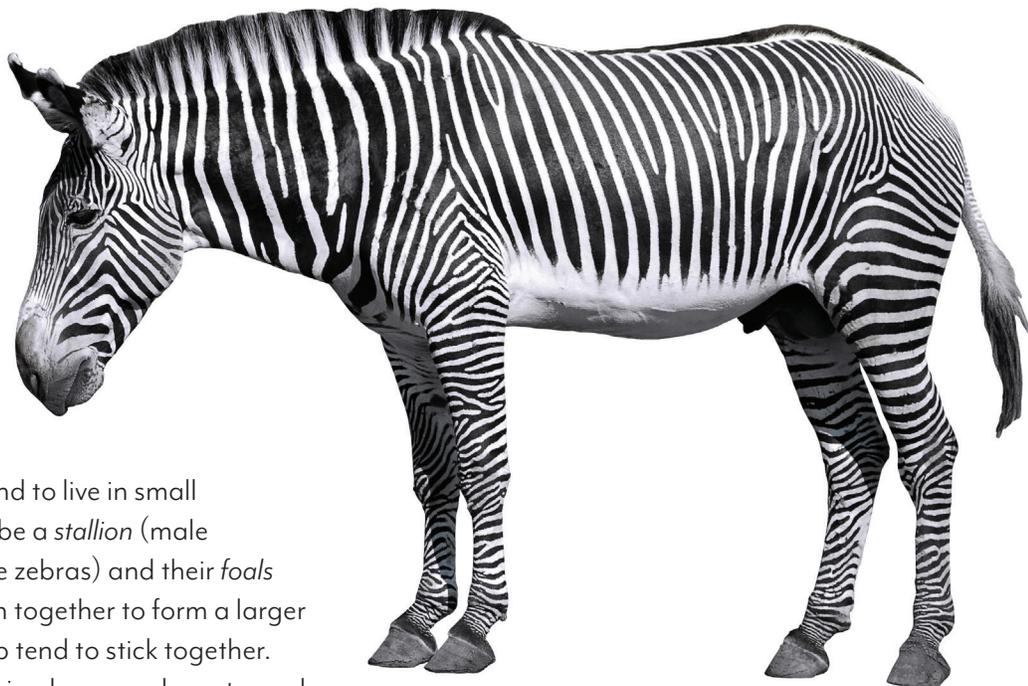
SIGHT WORDS: ANY + MANY

EVEN + ODD NUMBERS

EVEN + ODD ART PROJECT

ZEBRAS

What's black and white and trots along in the savannas of Africa? The zebra, of course! Zebras are a member of the horse family, which you could probably guess just by looking at them. They have a lot of physical similarities to horses, but their stripes make them unique! There are a couple of species of zebras, all native to the continent of Africa. Plains zebras tend to live in small family groups. In each group, there will be a *stallion* (male zebra), along with several *mares* (female zebras) and their *foals* (young zebras). Several groups may join together to form a larger herd, but the members of a family group tend to stick together. Zebras communicate with each other using brays and snorts, and they will even give each other a scratch on the back using their teeth! Zebras feed on the grass of the savanna. Chewing on tough grass all day wears down a zebra's teeth, but that's okay, because their teeth continue to grow for as long as they live! Their tough hooves protect their feet. They can also defend themselves against predators by kicking out with their hooves! Even a lion will try to stay out of the way of a zebra's mighty kick.



BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Genesis 1:31) Have you ever seen a beautiful piece of art—a painting or a drawing—and wished you could create something that beautiful? Sometimes it is easy to think that other people are more creative or more talented than you, or to compare yourself to others. We don't always realize that God is creative, and He made us in His image, so we are designed to be creative, too! Think of the creativity needed to design each of the animals in the savanna. God took a horse-like creature and decided to make it striped, like no other horse! When God created the world, He said that it was good. He loves all His creations—zebras, lions, hyenas, and YOU!



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHAT IS A GROWN-UP MALE ZEBRA CALLED? (A STALLION)



WHAT BODY PART CAN A ZEBRA USE TO SCRATCH A FRIEND'S BACK? (TEETH)



HOW CAN ZEBRAS DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST PREDATORS? (BY KICKING)



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- ZEBRA MIGRATION
- ISAIAH 30:21

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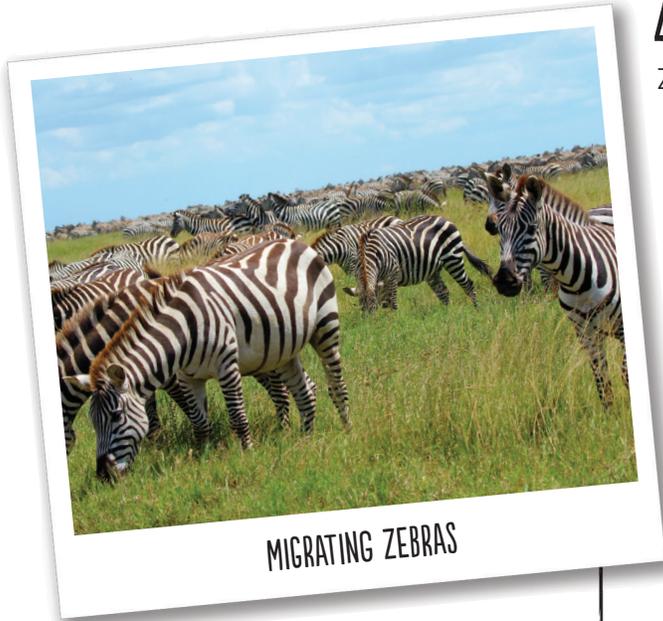
- SINGULAR + PLURAL WORDS

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- CARDINAL DIRECTIONS

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- ALL ABOUT ME

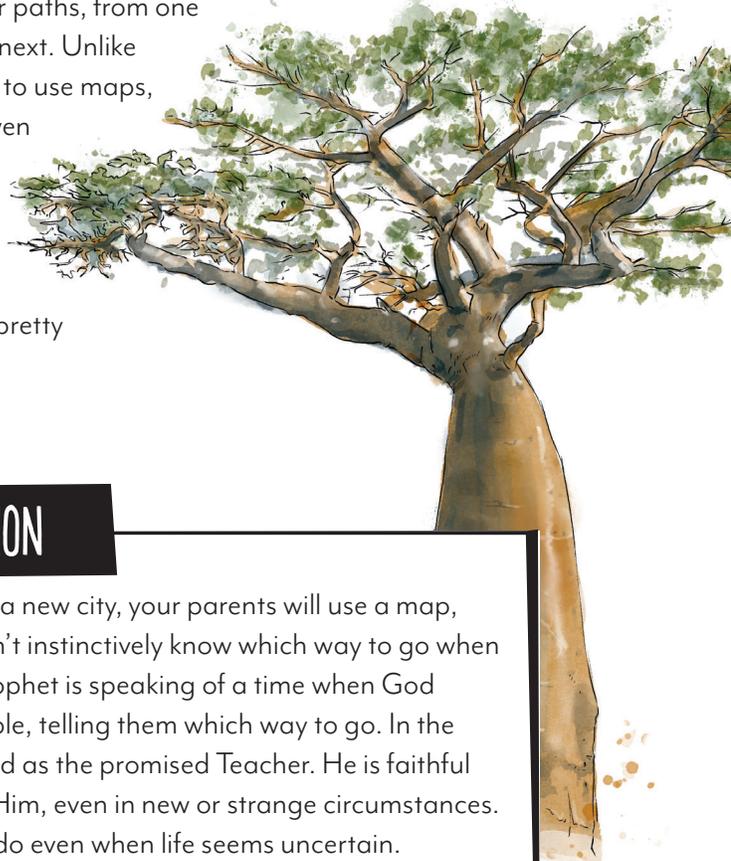


MIGRATING ZEBRAS

ZEBRA MIGRATION

Zebras in the Serengeti take part in a yearly migration ritual that is massive and magnificent to see. Mixed herds containing as many as a couple million wildebeest, zebras, gazelles, and more travel the savanna, moving in order to spend the wet and dry seasons in areas that have enough food and water to sustain them. That's exactly what a *migration* is! It may sound like a pretty big word, but a migration simply describes the habit that some animals have of traveling from one region to another as seasons change. Usually, animal migrations happen because a change of location provides the best chance of survival for that particular animal. Scientists have also been studying zebra migrations taking place in other parts of Africa, like the ones in Namibia and Botswana. In that migration, the zebras cover more than 300 miles (482.8 km) in one round-trip migration! That's a long way to walk!

What amazes scientists is that zebras will travel along the exact same *migration routes*, or paths, from one generation to the next. Unlike people, who need to use maps, road signs, and even GPS when we travel, zebras know exactly where to go, year after year! That's pretty incredible, isn't it?



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



CAN YOU DESCRIBE WHAT A MIGRATION IS?
(TRAVELING FROM ONE REGION TO ANOTHER AS SEASONS CHANGE.)



WHAT OTHER ANIMALS DO ZEBRAS TRAVEL WITH IN THE SERENGETI MIGRATION?
(WILDEBEEST, GAZELLES, ETC.)



DO MIGRATING ZEBRAS GO TO COMPLETELY NEW PLACES EACH YEAR? (NO)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Isaiah 30:21) If you are on a trip with your family to a new city, your parents will use a map, road signs, or GPS to find where they want to go. We don't instinctively know which way to go when we are on a long trip like the zebra does. In Isaiah, the prophet is speaking of a time when God would send the Teacher, and He would speak to His people, telling them which way to go. In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is revealed as the promised Teacher. He is faithful to direct our steps when we will listen to Him, even in new or strange circumstances. He can give us wisdom to know what to do even when life seems uncertain.





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DEVIL'S FLOWER MANTIS

2 CORINTHIANS 11:14–15

LET'S READ!

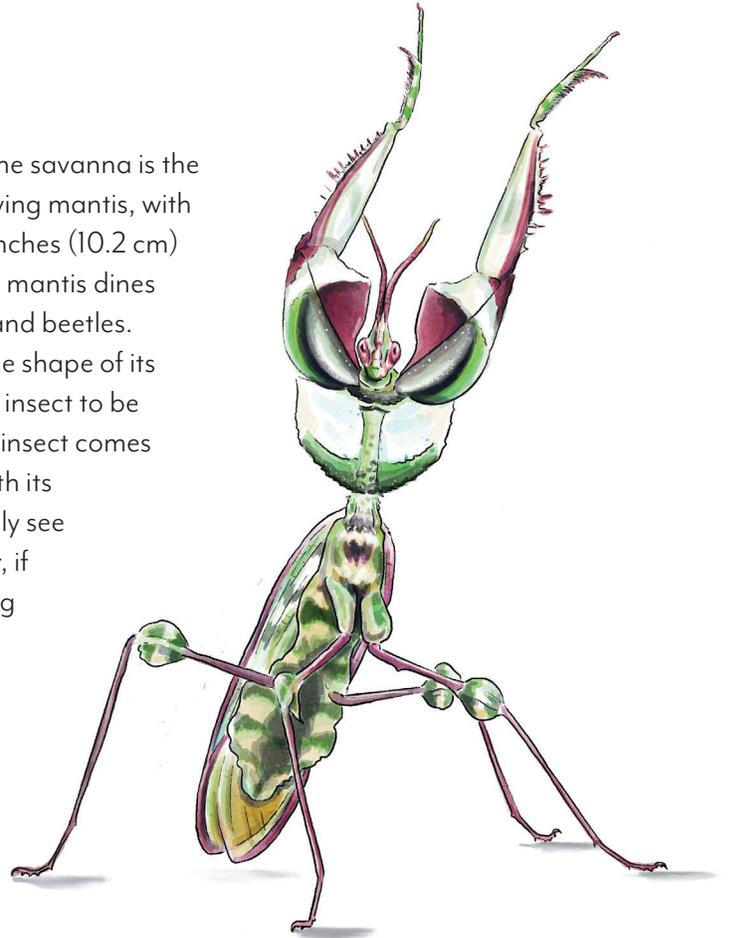
READING COMPREHENSION

REVIEW

KNOWING GOD'S WORD

DEVIL'S FLOWER MANTIS

One unusual insect you might come across while exploring the savanna is the devil's flower mantis. This is one of the largest species of praying mantis, with females being about 5 inches (12.7 cm) and males about 4 inches (10.2 cm) in length. (*Show your child approximately how long this is.*) This mantis dines on other, smaller insects—including flies, moths, butterflies, and beetles. Most of the time, the mantis will remain perfectly still, with the shape of its body looking like a flower of the savanna. It waits for a flying insect to be attracted to what it thinks is a flower. When the unfortunate insect comes in close for a sip of sweet nectar, the mantis will capture it with its powerful legs and gobble it down. Most of the time, you'll only see the brownish or greenish color of the mantis's back. However, if these mantises feel threatened, their special way of defending themselves is to stand up and spread open their wings, revealing the red, blue, purple, black, and white colors that normally stay hidden. How do you think you might feel if you were a predator and a big green insect suddenly stood up and faced you with all those bright colors? You might just get startled enough to leave this insect alone!



BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read 2 Corinthians 11:14–15) The devil's flower mantis has a fitting name. Did you know that the Bible talks about the devil disguising himself? This passage teaches that the devil knows how to make himself look harmless, and even appealing, in order to trick people into following him. If someone walked up to you in the store wearing the same clothes and with the same hair as your best friend, and tried to trick you into thinking it was really your friend, would you believe them? Probably not. We can usually identify our closest loved ones and best friends even if someone is trying to trick us. It is important to learn to listen to the Holy Spirit and become familiar with His voice. If Jesus is your best friend, it will be harder for the devil to trick you into believing him. If the bugs flying around the mantis knew it wasn't a flower, they would never land on it, and you will be able to see through the devil's disguises if you listen to the Holy Spirit!

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



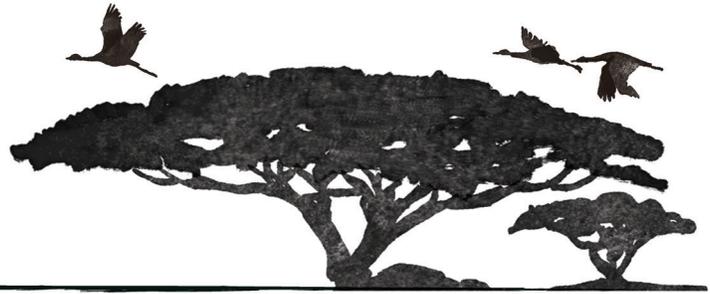
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A PRAYING MANTIS NEAR WHERE YOU LIVE?



WHAT DOES THIS MANTIS LIKE TO EAT? (FLIES, MOTHS, BUTTERFLIES, BEETLES)



WHAT DOES THIS MANTIS DO WHEN THREATENED BY A PREDATOR? (IT STANDS UP AND SHOWS OFF THE BRIGHT COLORS HIDDEN UNDER ITS WINGS AND LEGS)



LET'S REVIEW!

This week we read a little bit more about the savanna ecosystem and thought about how incredible it is that God designed each species of the savanna to rely on all the others in order to thrive. A food web is one way that we can picture the relationships between the plants and animals of the savanna. We also learned about zebras and their impressive ability to migrate hundreds of miles (or kilometers) as the seasons change. We read about the devil's flower mantis, a mantis who lures in its prey (insects) because its body is shaped like a flower! We practiced reading words with the /ow/ sound, made by the letter pairs *ow* and *ou*. We learned how to tell whether a number is even or odd, and we even made an art project to help us remember. We learned that when we know Jesus as a friend, it won't be easy for the devil to trick us with his lies.

- What is one interesting thing you learned about zebras? What is one interesting thing you learned about the devil's flower mantis?
- Can you think of any words that have the /ow/ sound?
- Can you name one even number? Can you name one odd number?
- How do we know people are made to be creative? (*People are made in God's image, and HE is creative!*)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

HUNGRY FOR EVENS AND ODDS

Use any number flashcards you may have on hand or make your own by writing numbers on slips of paper. Scatter those cards along one side of a room, and then stand at the other side with your child. Give your child a savanna animal and a type of movement, along with the words, "... who's hungry for an even (or odd) number."

For example, "Gallop like a zebra, who's hungry for an even number." Or, "Slither like a black mamba, who's hungry for an odd number."

Your child should move across the room with whatever type of movement you described, choose an odd or even number to pick up, and bring it back to you. Use all the different motions you can think of (*i.e. soar like a vulture, race like a cheetah, crawl like a dung beetle, etc.*).

PRAYER BREAK

Thank you, Jesus, that you sent the Holy Spirit to be our teacher. Help us to learn to listen for His voice, so we can know how to live to please you. Thank you for making us creative. Help us to grow in our creativity, inspired by your Spirit. In your name we pray. Amen.





THIS WEEK WE'LL COVER . . .

SCIENCE: SAVANNA CONSERVATION, BABOONS, FLAP-NECKED CHAMELEON

Start off the week learning a little bit about conservation and natural resources. This is a big topic for young children, so we just scratch the surface here, building some basic vocabulary for big conversations you can come back to again and again as your child grows. The two amazing animals you learn about this week are baboons and flap-necked chameleons!

BIBLE: GOD PROTECTS US

This week, you will learn about God's original design for conservation, and how He had a plan for Noah's family to be strong and thrive when they got out of the ark. You will explore the themes of safety and God's protection, along with what righteousness is and where we get our righteousness from.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Your child will begin reading words that use the oo vowel pair and will learn the two most common sounds that this vowel pair makes. Many activities throughout the week will reinforce reading words featuring this vowel pair. Your child also continues to work on reading comprehension and spelling awareness.

LANGUAGE ARTS

RULE: /oo/ sounds
SIGHT WORD: every
BLEND: sch-

MATH: READING THERMOMETERS

Your child is introduced to the basics of reading thermometers in order to tell what the temperature is. You can talk about degrees in either Celsius or Fahrenheit. Use your choice of units based on what is most appropriate to your location.

ART: CHAMELEON CAMOUFLAGE

Your child is invited to cut out a chameleon and paint or color it, along with a background. You'll need to provide a paper for the background as well as art supplies. The point of this activity is for your child to use similar colors and patterns when creating the background and when coloring the chameleon, so that once the chameleon is attached to the background, it will be "camouflaged."

SOCIAL STUDIES: WATER CONSERVATION

After talking about conservation as it relates to the savanna, bring the conversation closer to home. Chat with your child about simple habits they can develop to reduce excess waste of water in your own home! If you'd like to dive deeper into this topic, feel free to look up resources online to help you carry on the conversation about water conservation.

CHARACTER BUILDING

COURAGE

What does it mean to be a *courageous* person? Does a person who has courage simply go around jumping off of tall things, riding bikes without helmets, and doing other dangerous activities? No, being courageous doesn't mean doing dangerous things for the fun of it. True courage looks like doing what you know is right, even when you're afraid. True courage comes from knowing God and knowing that He is always with you. What opportunities do you have to be courageous? Have you ever been scared to do the right thing? Who can you ask for help when you feel afraid?





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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

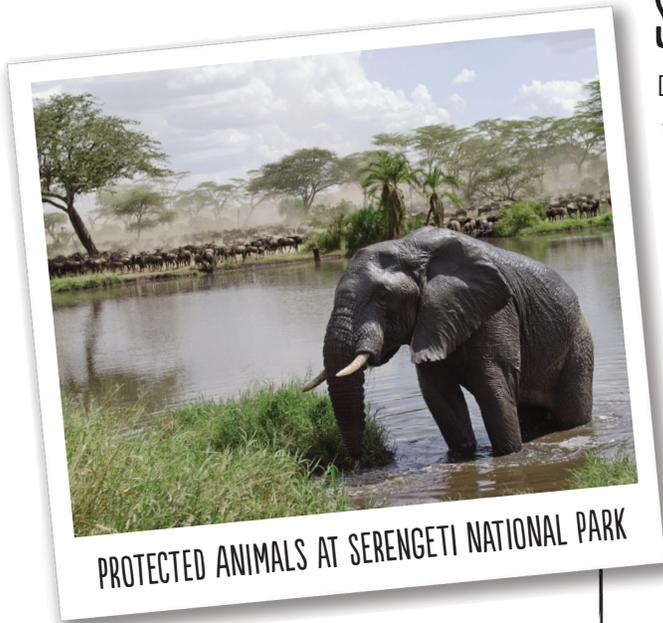
EXODUS 23:10–11

OO SAYS /OO/

ORDINAL NUMBERS

MEASUREMENT TOOLS

WATER CONSERVATION



PROTECTED ANIMALS AT SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

SAVANNA CONSERVATION

Do you know what *conservation* means? It's a pretty big word, with four syllables: con-ser-va-tion. Conservation means protecting the diversity of life in the natural world by using natural resources carefully, without too much waste. Waste happens when you use much more than you need. What happens if you squeeze a huge pile of ketchup onto your plate, even though you only have a couple of french fries left? When you put more ketchup on your plate than you'll actually eat, the rest of the ketchup ends up getting wasted—you can't put it back into the bottle, so it ends up in the garbage. Sometimes people use *natural resources* wastefully, too. Natural resources are things that exist in nature that can be used by people. Water, soil, plants, animals, and minerals are some of the natural resources that exist in the savanna.

God created an incredible balance of life when He created the savanna ecosystem. By learning more about the amazing plants and animals that live on the savanna and the way they each need all the others, we can learn how to protect the savanna's natural resources from being wasted. Governments have made laws to protect endangered or vulnerable animals that live on the savanna, but sadly, some people break those laws. *Poachers* are people who break laws in order to hunt for animals to make money. Some parts of the savanna are now set aside as national parks, like the Serengeti National Park, in order to protect the land from being developed into cities.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



CAN YOU GIVE SOME EXAMPLES OF NATURAL RESOURCES? (WATER, SOIL, PLANTS, ANIMALS, MINERALS)



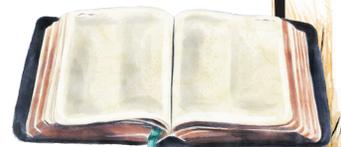
WHAT KINDS OF LAWS DO POACHERS BREAK? (LAWS AGAINST HUNTING ENDANGERED OR VULNERABLE ANIMALS)



CAN YOU THINK OF ANY WAYS YOU CAN PRACTICE CONSERVATION BY USING NATURAL RESOURCES WISELY?

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Exodus 23:10–11) Did you know that conservation was originally God's idea? When the Israelites left Egypt and headed toward the promised land, God gave them instructions on how to treat the land. Every seven years they were told not to plant anything in their fields. This is what we call letting a field lie *fallow*. Today, farmers all over the world do this, as science has shown that it is good for the soil to rest from time to time. Isn't it amazing that God had the Israelites follow farming practices that were the best for the ground even before they knew why? When we believe that God is *omniscient* (knows everything) we can trust the Bible even when we don't understand everything.





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CHACMA BABOON GENESIS 9:1-3

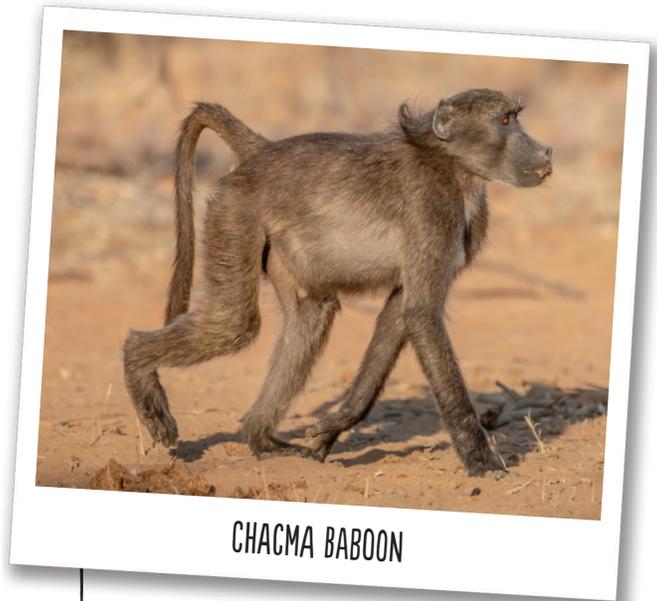
OO SOUND SORT SIGHT WORD: EVERY

MEASURING TEMPERATURE

BABOON FACTS

BABOONS

When you think of a monkey, you probably think of a furry little creature swinging between the branches, high in the canopy of the rainforest. Baboons are a little different from most other monkeys. Most baboons are larger than other monkey species, and they spend a lot less time in trees. Baboons spend most of their time on the ground! They don't have *prehensile* tails (tails that can grip and hold onto tree branches) as some other monkeys do. They tend to hold their tail up in an arch as they walk on all fours. There are several different species of baboons that live in dry climates in Africa and the Middle East. The one on this page is a chacma baboon. Chacma baboons are *omnivorous*, meaning that they eat both plants and meat. Most of their diet is made up of seeds, roots, flowers, and leaves . . . but they'll also eat insects, small mammals, bird eggs, and even carrion. They aren't picky eaters, which is a very good thing when there's not a lot of food around! These monkeys tend to stay fairly close to a source of water, so that they can always get a drink when they need one. Mother baboons will give birth to babies, called *infants*, who are covered with black fur at first. Their fur will begin to change color when they're about six months old (adults are dark brown or gray).



CHACMA BABOON

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



CAN BABOONS GRIP TREE BRANCHES WITH THEIR TAILS? (NO)



WHAT DO BABOONS EAT? (BOTH PLANTS AND MEAT)



WHAT COLOR OF FUR DO BABY CHACMA BABOONS HAVE? (BLACK)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Genesis 9:1-3) Most humans are omnivorous like baboons. However, did you know that before Noah built the ark and the flood came, people weren't omnivorous? When God created Adam and Eve, He gave them every plant for food, but when the flood wiped the earth clean, God had a plan. As Noah and his family came out of the ark, God told them that animals would now be fearful of mankind, and that animals would now be part of the food source for humanity. We became omnivorous after the flood! Remember when we learned that there is a time for everything? In the beginning, there was a time to eat only plants, and after the flood, there was a time for eating meat, as well. Some people follow different diets today and choose not to eat certain foods, or food groups, like meat. Meat was necessary when Noah and his family came off the ark while the plants all grew back and established themselves again. Aren't you thankful God had a plan after the flood?



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- BABOONS
- PSALM 4:8

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- SPELLING OO WORDS

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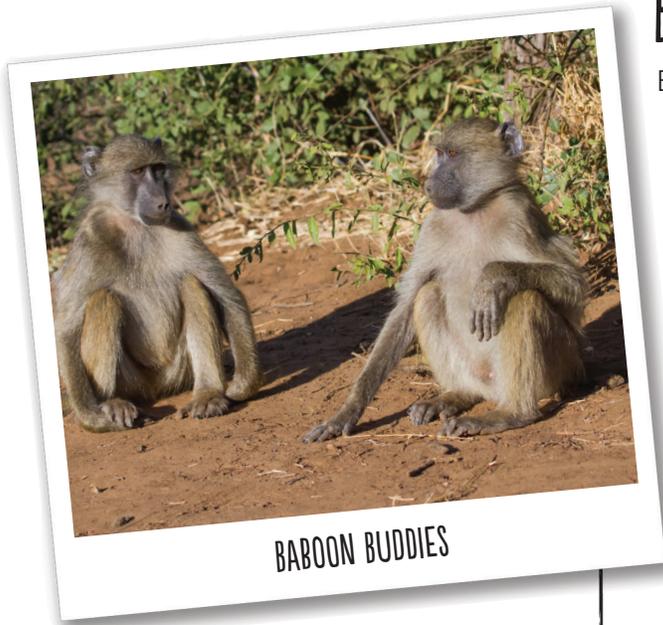
- ALL ABOUT ME

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- SAFE IN JESUS



BABOON BUDDIES

BABOON BUDDIES

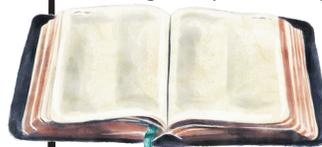
Baboons are very social animals! They communicate using a variety of sounds, including barks and screams. They also use facial expressions to communicate. A baboon will stare and bare his long teeth in order to warn others to back off—this facial expression means he’s feeling ready to attack! Baboons are known for being somewhat aggressive, and the people and animals of the savanna tend to try to give them their space and not get too close. Baboons spend much of their days *grooming* each other. This means that they sit together and patiently pick insects, dead skin, and other unwanted things out of a friend’s fur. Baboons are *diurnal*, or active during the daytime. All day long, they play with their troop members, forage for food, and spend time at their local watering hole. Predators of baboons include hyenas and lions, so baboons often make their sleeping location in high places, where it’s easier to spot an approaching predator. When evening comes, they’ll move to their troop’s chosen sleeping location, which might be a cliffside, rocky hillside, or a tree. It’s said that “there’s safety in numbers,” and baboons certainly seem to agree with this advice!

VIDEO BREAK!!

Look for a video of baboons interacting with their troop to see these animals in action!

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Psalm 4:8) Baboons know that they are safer in large groups, especially at night. Their practice of staying close to other members of their troop protects them. In Psalm 4, the writer tells us that he can lie down and rest in peace because he is safe. You can rely on God to keep you safe, and He is even better at keeping you safe than a group of friends is. He sees all the fears and worries in your life, and He loves you and is with you through any difficulty that you might face. You can truly sleep in peace when you know you are loved and cared for by God.



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



HOW DO BABOONS COMMUNICATE? (USING NOISES AND FACIAL EXPRESSIONS)



WHAT DO BABOONS DO WHEN GROOMING EACH OTHER? (PICK BUGS AND DEAD SKIN OUT OF THEIR FRIENDS' FUR)



ARE BABOONS ACTIVE IN THE DAY OR AT NIGHT? (IN THE DAY)



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FLAP-NECKED CHAMELEON PSALM 5:12, EPHESIANS 6:10–18

LET'S READ!

READING COMPREHENSION

REVIEW

CHAMELEON CAMOUFLAGE

FLAP-NECKED CHAMELEON

The black mamba isn't the only reptile on the savanna! The flap-necked chameleon is native to southern Africa, and as you might be able to guess from the fact that it's a *chameleon*, it is able to change its color when it wants. Chameleons in real life aren't like chameleons you might see in a cartoon on television, however. You won't see the flap-necked chameleons changing to pink, purple, or yellow with blue polka dots! They are typically a bright-green color, but can adapt to become darker or lighter shades. They can even change their pattern, allowing dark splotches to turn yellowish-orange and to show up in stripes or patches on their bodies. Chameleons are pretty cool! The flap-necked chameleon gets its name from the flaps of skin just behind its head. These lizards are *insectivores*, feeding on insects! A flap-necked chameleon mother will dig a hole in the ground and lay her eggs inside that hole before covering it up with dirt. The babies will develop inside those eggs for a long time—up to more than a year! Once they hatch, the young chameleons will have to dig their way out of the ground before they can begin exploring the wide expanse of the savanna.



CHAMELEON

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



CAN THIS CHAMELEON CHANGE TO BECOME RAINBOW-STRIPED? (NO)



WHAT DO FLAP-NECKED CHAMELEONS EAT? (INSECTS)

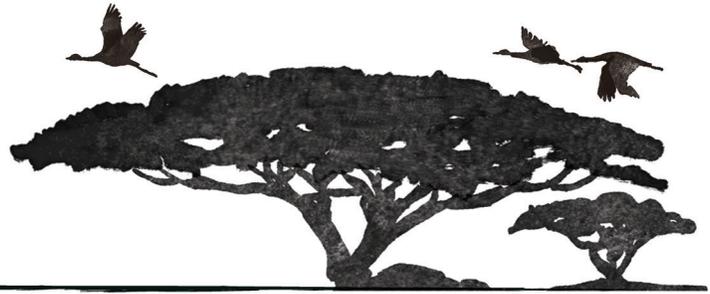


WHERE DOES A FLAP-NECKED CHAMELEON MOTHER LAY HER EGGS? (IN A HOLE IN THE GROUND)



BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Psalm 5:12, Ephesians 6:10–18) When a chameleon changes its color, it acts like a shield against danger. The Bible tells us that the Lord blesses the righteous and covers them with favor like a shield. What is righteousness though? Being *righteous* means that you are in right relationship with God, you aren't sinning, and you are following God's laws. On our own we make mistakes and cannot be righteous, but Jesus covers us with His righteousness when we have a relationship with Him, just like putting a coat around our shoulders! This righteousness acts as a protection in our lives. It is described as both providing a shield of favor and being a breastplate, or part of a suit of armor that protects your heart and lungs.



LET'S REVIEW!

This week we read about conservation and got to talk about how we can try to use natural resources, like water, wisely. We read about noisy baboons and the colorful flap-necked chameleon. We practiced reading words with the vowel pair oo, which makes the sound we hear in *school* and the sound we hear in *book*. We also learned how to read a thermometer, a tool that helps us tell the temperature, and how temperature is usually measured in degrees Fahrenheit or degrees Celsius. We read about how God knows our needs and provides for them. He protects us and gives us peace in our hearts.

- Can you describe a baboon to me? Can you describe a flap-necked chameleon to me?
- Can you name two different words that have the vowel pair oo?
- When the red line inside a thermometer starts to get higher, does that mean that the weather is getting warmer or cooler? (*warmer*)
- Why can we lie down in peace? (*because God protects us*)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

LEFT HAND, RIGHT HAND

Today, you can play a listening game with your child to help build awareness of different sounds. You can tell your child that you will read off words. If they hear a word with the vowel sound that's in *took*, your child should raise their right hand. If they hear a word with the vowel sound that's in *food*, your child should raise their left hand. This is also great practice for distinguishing between right and left! You could give your child two different things to hold in either hand. Anything from cooking utensils to flags to stuffed animals might be fun to raise! Switch back and forth between different /oo/ sounds so that your child is never quite sure which one is coming next.

/oo/ in *took*: hook, cook, foot, soot, good, stood, cookie, brook, etc.

/oo/ in *food*: moon, loon, spook, room, spool, smoothie, broom, pool, etc.

Jesus, you are so good to us. Thank you that you had a plan for Noah's family when they came out of the ark, and that you have a plan for us, too. Thank you that we can trust you to protect us and provide us with all we need to be safe. We love you. In your name. Amen.

PRAYER BREAK





THIS WEEK WE'LL COVER . . .

SCIENCE: SAVANNA WILDFIRES, TEMMINCK'S COURSER, RHINOCEROS

Begin the week reading about how wildfires on the savanna can actually help stimulate new grass growth and increase biodiversity. You'll learn about the Temminck's courser, a little bird who lays its ashy, black-and-brown eggs on burned ground. Finish off the week learning about the rhinoceros!

BIBLE: THE HOLY SPIRIT: FIRE + COMFORT

The first half of the week you will learn about the fire of God, and how that fire is often used to symbolize the Holy Spirit. As you move further into the week, you will see that we don't need to live in fear, and that God is a faithful friend.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Your child will begin reading words that use the *oi* and *oy* letter pairs to make the sound /oi/. Many activities throughout the week will reinforce this sound. Your child also continues to work on reading comprehension and spelling awareness, as well as awareness of how all parts of a sentence need to work together, so that the sentence makes sense.

MATH: ADDING DOUBLE-DIGIT NUMBERS

Your child will begin adding double-digit numbers this week. Ensure that your child always begins by adding the number in the one's column. This will help establish a good habit that will make adding easier later on when they are introduced to adding with regrouping.

ART: PICTURE STUDY

This week offers another opportunity to experience a picture study with your child. Look closely at *The Black Rhinoceros*, by Thomas Baines, and discuss it. You can talk about the artistic practice of including more detail in objects that are closer to the viewer and less detail in objects that are farther away.

SOCIAL STUDIES: FIRE SAFETY

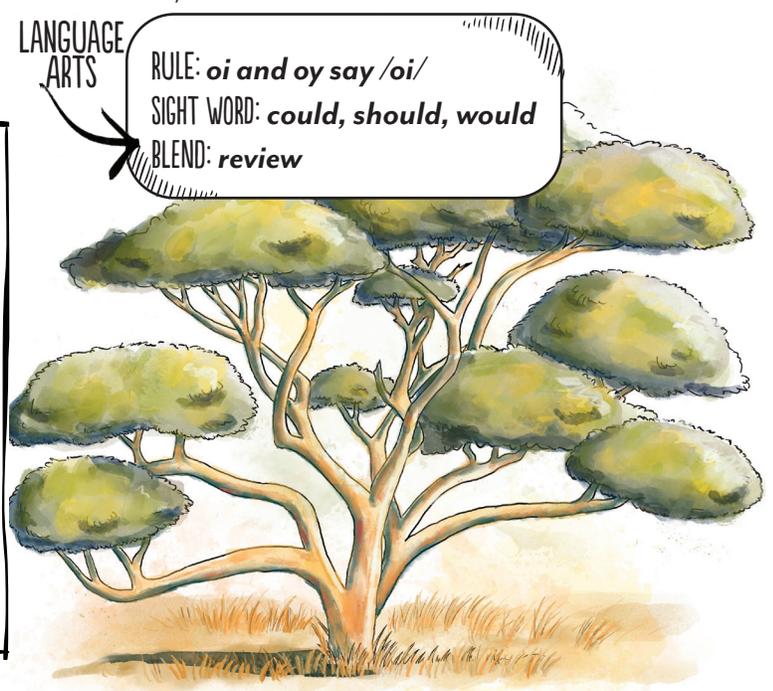
Tying into the topic of wildfires in the savanna, this week we explore the topic of fire safety in the student book. Be sure to talk with your child specifically about the fire safety plan that you have for your own family and your own home. You can even use this as an opportunity to run a fire drill for your whole family.

LIFESTYLE OF LEARNING

What is your child supposed to do with all the information they learn during your lessons? Sometimes kids can struggle to make the connections between what they do during schoolwork and what they do the rest of the week. Build a strong habit of helping your child see the connections between the skills they learn during schoolwork time and their everyday, non-school activities. Help your child notice opportunities to read food packages in the kitchen, chances to add and subtract when playing games, and many more real-life opportunities to use "school skills." Continue to work on developing an excitement for learning!

LANGUAGE ARTS

RULE: *oi* and *oy* say /oi/
SIGHT WORD: *could, should, would*
BLEND: *review*





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- SAVANNA WILDFIRES
- JEREMIAH 23:29

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- USING COINS



FIRE IN THE SAVANNA

A *wildfire* is a large, uncontrolled fire that can spread quickly through a grassland or forest. Wildfires tend to start in the dry season, when water is scarce and grass is dry. Some wildfires start when lightning strikes the ground, igniting brush or dry grass. When wildfires become too big and travel too close to communities where people live, they can be very dangerous! However, at the right time and the right place, fires in the savanna are not a bad thing. Throughout history, the people who have lived in the savanna have noticed that occasional burning helps both the plants and animals of the savanna to thrive! Today, farmers and park rangers still start controlled fires. These fires burn up the layer of dead grass on the ground, allowing nutrients, water, and sunlight to reach the ground. This helps fresh, young shoots of grass to sprout. Most large animals run away when a fire is raging. Smaller animals will hole up safely underground until the fire has passed. These fires do kill insects, which is good when insect populations grow too large, because insects can cause damage to trees and can spread disease. Scientists have studied the effects of fire on the savanna, and they have learned that seasonal burns seem to help increase the savanna's *biodiversity*, or the variety of animals and plants who thrive in these regions.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHAT WEATHER EVENT CAN IGNITE A WILDFIRE? (A LIGHTNING STRIKE)



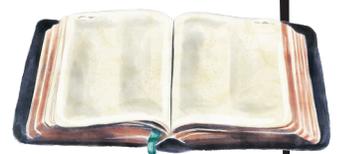
ARE FIRES ON THE SAVANNA ALWAYS A BAD THING? (NO)



WHERE WILL SMALL ANIMALS HIDE DURING A WILDFIRE? (UNDERGROUND)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read *Jeremiah 23:29*) This verse describes God's word as fire. We often think of fire as a bad thing, but we learned today that fire in the right place at the right time is actually a good thing that helps the ecosystem of the savanna to flourish. Just like God can use a wildfire, He can use hard and scary things in our lives to help us to grow. It might not look like it in the moment, but we can trust Him to help clean our hearts of things that aren't good for us if we ask Him to. Is there anything you think you need to ask God to clean in your heart today? Pray about it and ask Him to show you if there is something He wants you to say you are sorry for. This is called *repentance*, and it helps to clean our hearts so that good fruit can grow!



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TEMMINCK'S COURSER

ACTS 2:1-4

VOWEL PAIRS

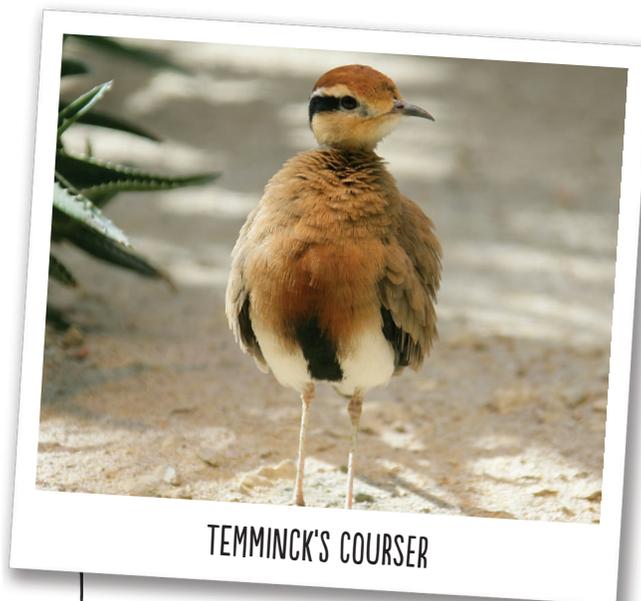
SIGHT WORDS: SHOULD, WOULD, COULD

DOUBLE-DIGIT ADDING

PENTECOST

TEMMINCK'S COURSER

This dainty, long-legged bird is the Temminck's courser, and it's one creature of the savanna that thrives when wildfires burn the grass. Temminck's coursers mainly feed on a diet of insects. They will sometimes hop up close to the edge of an area that's been recently burned in order to gobble up grasshoppers, termites, and beetles—some of their favorite foods. Once a Temminck's courser finds a mate, they will stick together for years to come. Unlike many birds, Temminck's coursers don't build nests in trees. They will lay their black and brown speckled eggs directly on recently burned ground. Both parents take turns incubating their eggs until their chicks hatch. The mother and father bird work together to feed their babies for the first few days of their life, but Temminck's coursers become independent at a young age! At just over a week old, the chicks are able to feed themselves, and by three weeks old, they take their first flight! These birds can and do fly when they need to. When they fly, you can see the black wing feathers on the undersides of their wings! However, they spend a lot of their time on the ground, as that's where they find their food and lay their eggs. Temminck's coursers are fun to watch as they scamper along on their long legs and bob their heads up and down.



TEMMINCK'S COURSER

VIDEO BREAK

Look up a video to see these birds in action!

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHAT DO TEMMINCK'S COURSERS EAT? (INSECTS: BEETLES, TERMITES, GRASSHOPPERS, ETC.)



WHAT COLOR ARE THEIR EGGS? (SPECKLED BLACK AND BROWN)



CAN TEMMINCK'S COURSERS FLY? (YES, BUT THEY SPEND MUCH OF THEIR TIME ON THE GROUND)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Acts 2:1-4) Did you know that one of the ways the Holy Spirit is shown in the Bible is with fire? After Jesus went back to heaven, His disciples were gathered together praying. Tongues of fire appeared above their heads, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. They were given boldness to preach about Jesus, and the tools to do it! They were even able to speak in different languages that they didn't know before. Just like the fires that scorch the savanna makes it easy for the Temminck's courser to thrive, the fire of the Holy Spirit helps us thrive as believers in Jesus.



TEACHER'S GUIDE

RHINOCEROS

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

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SIGHT WORD BINGO

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SENTENCES + SPELLING FUN!

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STORY PROBLEMS

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PICTURE STUDY



RHINOCEROS

Say this giant animal's name with me:

rhi·no·cer·os! Wow, that's a big name for one huge creature. The rhinoceros has a short nickname that many people like to use: rhino! That's easy to say!

Both black rhinoceros and white rhinoceros are native to the African continent, but guess what? Black rhinos aren't black, and white rhinos aren't white! In fact, they're all gray! Isn't that funny? One big difference between black and white rhinos is that

they have differently-shaped mouths and different mealtime habits. The rhinoceros is an *herbivore*, eating only plants. White rhinos mainly eat grass, while black rhinos mainly eat leaves and fruit off of bushes or trees. Rhinos are so huge and appear so threatening when they charge, that a healthy adult rhino doesn't usually need to worry about predators. However, because they don't have good eyesight, they're easily startled. Rhinos have been known to charge at trees or rocks—they may not be quite sure what that big thing is, but just in case it's a threat, they charge to try to scare it away. They have an excellent sense of hearing and smell to make up for their limited vision. Young rhinoceros are called *calves*, and their mothers must protect them from predators like lions, hyenas, or crocodiles.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



DO BLACK AND WHITE RHINOS HAVE DIFFERENT COLORS OF SKIN? (NO. THEY ARE BOTH GRAY)



WHAT DO RHINOCEROS EAT? (PLANTS)



ONE OF THE RHINO'S SENSES ISN'T VERY SHARP. WHICH SENSE IS IT? (EYESIGHT)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read 2 Timothy 1:7) When something scares you, it is easy to react quickly without thinking, just like a rhino. Fear is a powerful emotion and can make you do things that don't make any sense, like when a rhino charges at trees. They are reacting in fear, and they aren't seeing things around them clearly. When you have the Holy Spirit living inside of you, you don't have to live in fear. This verse reminds us that God's Spirit is living powerfully in us, reminding us of His love, and giving us the ability to see things around us clearly, so we can have self control and not react in fear. The next time something startles you and you feel afraid, ask the Holy Spirit to help you to know God's love and have self-

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RHINOCEROS

PROVERBS 18:24

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RHINOCEROS INFORMATION

A MUDDY RHINOCEROS

Let's just say that the rhinoceros isn't the cleanest animal of the savanna. You'll often see a rhino rolling in the mud or dust. Covering their skin with mud and dust actually serves a very important purpose for the rhino. Just like sunscreen protects your skin from getting sunburned when you spend a long day at the beach, mud and dust caked onto a rhino's gray skin help protect it from the fierce rays of the sun on the savanna. Rolling around in mud is also a great way to cool down when the savanna gets hot. In addition, mud helps serve as an insect repellent. Hmm . . . wouldn't it look pretty funny if we decided to roll around in mud instead of using sunscreen and insect repellants? Maybe it will be less messy if we just wear long sleeves and long pants to protect our skin! You may often see a rhino with an unusual little friend perched on its back. This bird is the oxpecker. The oxpecker will gobble up any insects that manage to pester the rhino in spite of the mud and dust. This comes in quite handy for the rhino, who doesn't have any fingers to give himself a scratch on the back when a pesky insect tries to bite! Oxpeckers are good friends for rhinos to have.



IN THE MUD

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



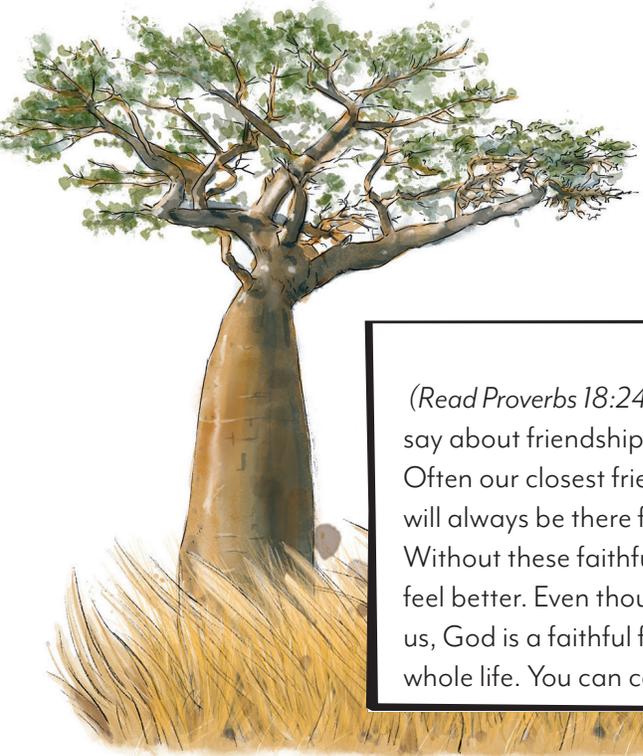
WHAT DOES A RHINO USE AS SUNSCREEN AND INSECT REPELLANT? (MUD OR DUST)



WHAT HELPS A RHINO COOL DOWN WHEN THE WEATHER IS HOT? (ROLLING IN MUD)

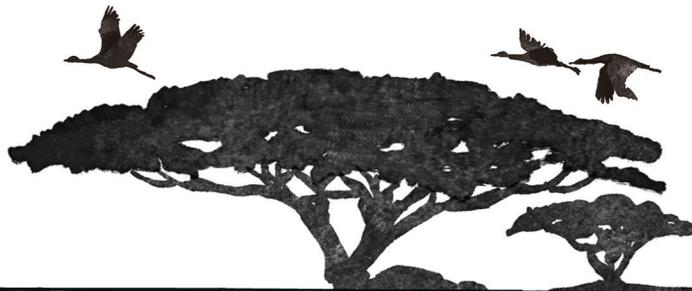


WHAT BIRD EATS INSECTS OFF OF A RHINO'S SKIN? (THE OXPECKER)



BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Proverbs 18:24) It is so important to have good friends! The Bible has a lot to say about friendship. We are encouraged to love each other and to care for others. Often our closest friends are the people we grow up with: our siblings. We know they will always be there for us as we grow up. The oxpecker is a close friend of the rhino. Without these faithful birds, rhinos would be covered in irritating bites with no way to feel better. Even though we can trust our siblings and close friends to love us and help us, God is a faithful friend who will stay even closer than a brother or sister through your whole life. You can count on Him no matter what!



LET'S REVIEW!

This week, we read about fire on the savanna and talked about fire safety at home. The Temminck's courser is a little bird that lays its ashy-colored eggs directly on the ground in areas of the savanna where all the grass has been burned by fire. We also learned about the powerful rhinoceros! We practiced reading words with the /oi/ sound. We practiced adding numbers with two digits, and we studied an old painting of a rhinoceros. We also read about the day of Pentecost, when the followers of Jesus received the Holy Spirit. They saw tongues of fire above each of their heads, and they were able to speak in languages they had never learned! What an incredible day that must have been!

- What do you remember about Temminck's coursers? What do you remember about rhinos?
- Which usually comes at the end of a word with the /oi/ sound, *oi* or *oy*? (*oy*)
- When adding two-digit numbers, do you begin by adding the numbers in the one's place or the numbers in the ten's place? (*begin by adding the numbers in the one's place*)
- What is one way the Holy Spirit is pictured in the Bible? (*fire*)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

BOARD GAMES

When it comes to playing with numbers, don't forget about the board games you may have stashed away in your cupboard! Even board games that aren't intentionally educational, but use dice or require players to count the number of spaces they move, build number awareness. Make the time to play some board games this week! Don't rush through the game, but allow your child the time they may need to add together the numbers on the dice and move their own token. If you play a game that requires strategy, talk about different strategies that your child can implement. Playing board games is a fantastic skill-builder!

PRAYER BREAK

Thank you, Father, that you sent your Holy Spirit to be the fire in our lives. You are so faithful to love us well. Help us to know your voice and live without fear because you are love and you take care of us. In your name we pray. Amen.





THIS WEEK WE'LL COVER . . .

SCIENCE: SAFARIS, OSTRICHES, MALACHITE KINGFISHER

You'll begin the week learning a little bit about safaris, a travel adventure that allows people to see the magnificent animals of the savanna in their natural habitat. One animal you might have the chance to see on a safari is the ostrich, which you'll read about next! In contrast to the giant size and drab colors of the ostrich, is the small, colorful malachite kingfisher.

BIBLE: DON'T BE AFRAID!

This week starts out with learning that God's children are called to be bold like lions. You will discover that God desires our trust instead of fear. Toward the end of the week, you will learn that it is important to live ready for Jesus to return, and that God is our provider, so we don't need to worry.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Your child will begin reading words featuring the *-ing*, *-ang*, *-ong*, and *-ung* sounds. Many activities throughout the week will reinforce these sounds. Your child will also begin reading words with *-ing* added to the end. Continue working on reading comprehension and spelling awareness, as well as awareness of how all parts of a

LANGUAGE ARTS

RULE: **ing, ang, ong, or ung**

SIGHT WORD: **once**

DIGRAPH BLEND: **str-**

sentence need to work together so that the sentence makes sense.

MATH: DIFFERENT WAYS TO MAKE A NUMBER

This week, highlight the fact that the same number can be made in different ways. You can use hands-on manipulatives to help your child realize that there are several different pairs of numbers that always add up to 6, or to 7, and so on. Work on building speed and the ability to perform mental calculations.

ART: ART MEDIUMS

Build art vocabulary this week by highlighting art mediums. Your child gets to experience how different art mediums yield different results by choosing two different art mediums and using them to color two identical images.

SOCIAL STUDIES: SAFARI ADVERTISING

Your child will get to imagine that they are a safari tour operator, and they will create a tri-fold brochure with details about the kind of safari this company offers. This brochure is intended to advertise their safari adventures to prospective guests. Encourage your child to complete this activity well, and then show it to other family members.

LIFE SKILLS

Here are two life skills to practice this week. One is a hands-on skill, and the other is a memory topic. If your child already knows these well, feel free to skip this. If these are more challenging for your child, feel free to spend more than a week practicing the skills.

Learn some bathroom cleaning skills! Allow your child to learn how to scrub the tub, wipe the bathroom counter, and any other bathroom chores that you'd like your child to become skilled at.

Choose a Bible verse to memorize. Proverbs 28:1 is a good option, or Matthew 6:26!





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SAFARIS

PROVERBS 28:1

-ING, -ANG, -ONG, -UNG

CAPITALIZATION OF NAMES

MEASUREMENT PRACTICE

SAFARI ADVERTISING



A SAFARI ADVENTURE

Does learning about the incredible savanna ecosystem make you wish that you could visit it and see it for yourself? Elephants, lions, giraffes, and zebras have captured the hearts and imaginations of many people around the world, inspiring them to plan a trip to go on safari. A *safari* is a journey to observe the wild animals of the savanna in their natural habitat. If you've never been on safari before, you should know, it's not quite as easy as buying a plane ticket, landing in Kenya or Tanzania, and driving off into the grasslands, looking for wild animals on your own. Travelers who want to go on safari can buy packages from safari tour operators, who provide guides, vehicles, meals, and places to stay. Safaris can be short, weekend trips or can last for weeks or months! A safari guide is familiar with the local terrain and the wildlife, and they help teach tourists how to enjoy observing wildlife without causing harm to the local ecosystem. Most safaris use four-wheel-drive vehicles that can handle rough roads. Open sides or pop-up roofs on a safari vehicle allow tourists to get a better view (and better pictures!) of the animals they spot. Where you stay during a safari depends on how much money you have spent on the trip. Many safaris offer simple tent-camping, while others stop at luxurious eco-lodges, where travelers can feel close to nature, while still experiencing the comfort of a fancy hotel.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHAT DO YOU CALL A JOURNEY TO SEE SAVANNA ANIMALS IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT? (A SAFARI)



WHAT WILL SAFARI GUIDES HELP TEACH TOURISTS HOW TO DO? (OBSERVE WILDLIFE WITHOUT HARMING THE ECOSYSTEM)



DOES A SAFARI ALWAYS INVOLVE CAMPING IN TENTS? (NO, NOT ALWAYS)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Proverbs 28:1) The creatures that live on the savannas of Africa are truly unique and beautiful. Lions are known to be majestic, the “king” of all animals, and many people go on an African safari in hopes of seeing these fantastic beasts. They are an important part of any safari experience. The Bible talks about Jesus as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, and the lion is used to symbolize strength in many different scriptures. This verse shows that when you follow God’s commands, He will make you bold like a lion, but if you choose to do bad things, you will always be fearful of being caught.



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OSTRICHES

ISAIAH 41:10

LISTEN CLOSELY!

SIGHT WORD: ONCE

DIFFERENT WAYS TO MAKE A NUMBER

ISAIAH 41:10

OSTRICHES

While on safari, you just might spot this bird walking across the grasslands. It's an ostrich! We say "walking," because the ostrich can't fly! It's the largest bird in the world, standing taller than a person at 7–9 feet (2.1–2.7 m) tall. (*Show your child how tall this is with a measuring tape.*) These long-legged, two-toed birds run at high speeds to escape from predators. They can hold out their wings to help them stay balanced as they twist and turn when running, just like you sometimes hold out your arms to help you balance! Ostriches live in large groups, called *flocks*. Their long necks and good eyesight help them spot approaching predators, giving them time to warn their friends so that they can run away. If they're not able to escape, ostriches are able to fight back against a predator with a mighty kick and the sharp claws on their feet! Ostriches are *omnivores*; they mainly eat plants, but will also gobble up insects and small lizards or mammals, as well. The ostrich does swallow something that's pretty unusual: sand and small stones! These birds swallow small stones because these stones travel all the way to the *gizzard* (a gizzard is like a second stomach). The stones stay in the gizzard and help to grind up food once food gets there. This helps the ostrich digest their food! Isn't that incredible?



BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Isaiah 41:10) Most birds fly away when they are in danger. When you see an ostrich, it is tempting to wonder why God made a bird that looks like it has no way to escape danger like other birds. However, once you know that they can run VERY fast, and that they have a powerful kick to defend themselves with, God's design makes so much more sense. This verse reminds us that even when it looks like we are alone, we don't have to be afraid because God promises to be with us. He promises to strengthen and help us, no matter the circumstances. What an amazing promise from the all-powerful ruler of the universe! Even when we are tempted to be fearful, we can trust Jesus!



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



CAN OSTRICHES FLY? (NO)



HOW DO OSTRICHES DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST PREDATORS? (WITH POWERFUL KICKS AND THEIR SHARP CLAWS)



CAN YOU NAME SOMETHING UNUSUAL THAT OSTRICHES SWALLOW? (SMALL STONES AND SAND)



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OSTRICHES

MATTHEW 24:44

FINISH THE SENTENCE + SPELLING

PARTS OF A NUMBER

ADDING -ING

OSTRICH LIFE CYCLE

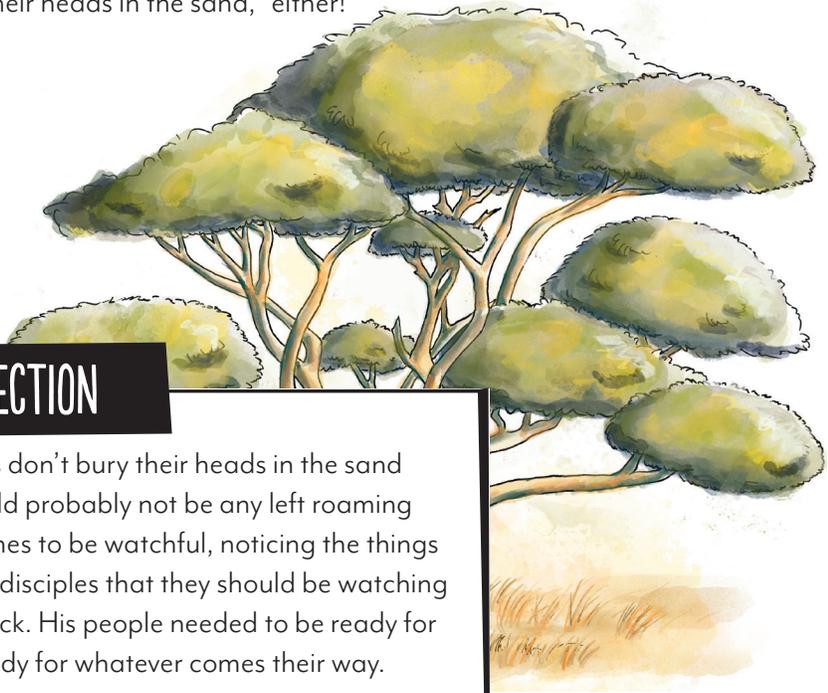


OSTRICH WITH EGGS

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT OSTRICHES?

What do you notice when you look at this picture of our ostrich friend? You may notice that his feathers look kind of bushy and a little bit messy, unlike the sleek feathers you might see on a robin or an eagle. Ostrich feathers are designed to be a little different from the feathers of most other birds, because they don't need to use them for flying! In each flock, there's a dominant male and dominant female ostrich who are kind of like the leaders of the flock. All the other *hens*, or female ostriches, will lay their eggs in the main hen's nest, and she and the dominant male will take turns incubating all the eggs in that one nest until they hatch. Ostriches lay huge eggs! Each egg weighs about 3 pounds (1.36 kg). (*Find something with a similar weight and allow your child to hold that item.*) Newborn chicks are small at first, but they grow fast!

They are nearly full-grown by around six months old. There's an old idiom about "burying your head in the sand," which means that you're ignoring a problem or pretending that the problem doesn't exist. This saying comes from an old tale that ostriches had a habit of burying their heads in the sand when they felt threatened. This simply isn't true! Ostriches don't do it, and it's probably not a smart idea for people to "bury their heads in the sand," either!



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



WHY ARE OSTRICH FEATHERS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THE SLEEK FEATHERS OF OTHER BIRDS? (THEY AREN'T DESIGNED FOR FLIGHT)



WHERE DO OSTRICHES LAY THEIR EGGS? (IN THE MAIN HEN'S NEST)



DO OSTRICHES BURY THEIR HEADS IN THE SAND WHEN FRIGHTENED? (NO)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Matthew 24:44) It's a good thing ostriches don't bury their heads in the sand when they feel threatened! If they did, there would probably not be any left roaming the African savannas today. God created ostriches to be watchful, noticing the things around them in order to stay safe. Jesus told His disciples that they should be watching and aware because one day, He was coming back. His people needed to be ready for Him, just like the ostriches need to always be ready for whatever comes their way.



TEACHER'S GUIDE

- MALACHITE KINGFISHER
- MATTHEW 6:26

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- ART MEDIUMS

MALACHITE KINGFISHER

We move from reading about a really big bird, to reading about a small one! The colorful bird you see on this page is the malachite kingfisher! You can easily spot this bird, thanks to the bright blue feathers on the back of its head and body, along with its vivid orange beak and red legs. Most savanna animals have colors that are designed to help them blend into their dry, grassy surroundings, but the malachite kingfisher looks like it was designed to stand out! You won't actually find malachite kingfishers in the middle of a dry, dusty savanna region, but these birds are common in most of the same African countries where savanna animals thrive. These birds, however, need to live close to a source of water, since they depend on fish for their food! They can be found near marshy areas, swamps, ponds, and slow-moving rivers. They are in the habit of perching on a tree branch over the water, waiting patiently until they spot a fish, and then swooping quickly down to the water. They will grab the fish in their bill and fly back up to their perch to gobble up their meal. A pair of malachite kingfishers will dig an underground tunnel near water and lay their eggs in that tunnel. These birds will defend their nest and their territory against other birds.



MALACHITE KINGFISHER

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE COLORS OF A MALACHITE KINGFISHER?



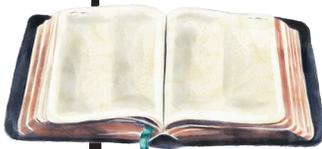
WHAT DO MALACHITE KINGFISHERS EAT? (FISH)



WHERE DO THESE BIRDS LAY THEIR EGGS? (IN AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL NEAR A BODY OF WATER)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Matthew 6:26) This remarkable bird can't live just anywhere. If you were to find it in the middle of the dry savanna, you would likely find a weak, sick bird that would need help to get back to the place where it could find food easily. However, if it stays where God intended for it to live, food is readily available. When the malachite kingfisher chooses to follow God's design, he is well taken care of. Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6 that God cares for His birds by providing food for them. You are so much more valuable than a bird! Jesus cares for you and will provide for your





LET'S REVIEW!

Can you imagine what it would be like to go on safari? What animal would you be most excited to see? What an adventure that would be! Even in our own home, we can have adventures as we learn all about God's amazing creation, including the extra-tall ostrich and the colorful malachite kingfisher—two birds who make their homes in Africa. This week, we practiced reading words with the *-ing*, *-ang*, *-ong*, and *-ung* sounds. We thought about how different pairs of numbers can be added to make the same number! If I want to make 6, I can do it by adding $3 + 3$, $2 + 4$, $5 + 1$, or even $6 + 0$! We also talked about how we don't need to be afraid or worried. God loves us, He knows our needs, and He provides for us! We can trust our heavenly Father with all our needs!

- Which bird do you think is more interesting, the ostrich or the malachite kingfisher? Why?
- Can you think of a word that ends with *-ing*?
- I can make the number 4 by adding $3 + 1$. What's another pair of numbers you could add together to make 4? ($2+2$ or $4+0$)
- When you feel fearful, who should you trust? (*Jesus!*)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

MUSICAL LISTENING

For this activity, get out any toy instruments that you may have. If you have 4 different types of instruments, then you can practice identifying all 4 sounds, but if you don't have that many, simply work with what you have! You may want to label each instrument with a sound: *-ing*, *-ang*, *-ong*, or *-ung*. Tell your child that you will say a word or show them a card with a word (depending on whether you want your child to practice listening for sounds or reading sounds—you can simply write the target words on slips of paper or index cards if you want your child to practice reading), and they must shake, beat, or play the musical instrument that is marked with the sound featured in that word. For example, if you have maracas, and they are marked *-ang*, your child should pick up the maracas and shake them when they hear you say *rang* or when they pick up a card that says *rang*. Here are some ideas for words to use:

- ing:** bring, string, ring, sing, wing, looking
- ang:** sang, bang, fang
- ong:** strong, gong, long
- ung:** stung, lung, dung, swung

Jesus, thank you that you are the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Teach us how to be bold like a lion, and how to trust in you, even when we feel afraid. Help us to live knowing how much you love us, trusting you to provide for our needs. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER BREAK





THIS WEEK WE'LL COVER . . .

SCIENCE: TANZANIAN FOOD, CROCODILES, WARTHOGS

Start off the week reading about Tanzanian food! It's fun to explore the food of different cultures with your young child. You'll get to read about crocodiles and their amazing teeth, before finishing off our study of the savanna by talking about warthogs.

BIBLE: DO EVERYTHING FOR GOD'S GLORY!

During the last week learning about the savanna, your child will learn that they are designed to do everything for God's glory. They are encouraged to learn from and honor their parents. As you finish the week, be encouraged by the radiant presence of Jesus, and that He calls all He created good. He delights in His children!

LANGUAGE ARTS

Your child will begin reading words featuring sounds created by a vowel + *r*. Many activities throughout the week will reinforce these sounds. Your child will also begin reading words with the *-er* suffix added to the end. Continue to work on reading comprehension and spelling awareness, as well as awareness of how all parts of a sentence need to work together so that the sentence makes sense.

MATH: REVIEW

Have fun this week reviewing and practicing many of the concepts introduced in this unit, including reading thermometers, identifying evens and odds, adding double-digit numbers, and more!

ART: DESIGN A BOOK COVER

Your child will design a book cover for their little reading book, *Jess and Dan's Adventures*. If you'd like, you can take the time to show your child different book covers and talk about the beautiful designs, giving your child inspiration as they begin to design the cover. You will need to provide a sheet of paper (you could use a thicker paper, like cardstock, for a sturdier cover) and art supplies.

SOCIAL STUDIES: RESTAURANT MENU

This week's social studies activity is connected to math. Your child will get to complete a menu for a restaurant that serves the sorts of foods you might eat when visiting Tanzania. You or another family member can role-play ordering and serving food at a restaurant using this menu. This is a great time to talk about good manners when eating at a restaurant!

CHARACTER BUILDING

OBEDIENCE

When your parents ask you to do something, can they trust that you will do it quickly and with a happy heart? That is what obedience means. A child who is not obedient is one who ignores the instructions given by their parents. The Bible talks a great deal about the importance of listening to wise advice and instructions from your parents. God gave your parents the job of raising you and teaching you how to live rightly. God gave you the job of obeying your parents. How can you make sure you're doing your job this week?

LANGUAGE ARTS

RULE: vowel + r
SIGHT WORD: where
BLEND: review





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FOOD IN TANZANIA

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

VOWEL + R SOUNDS

SCAVENGER HUNT

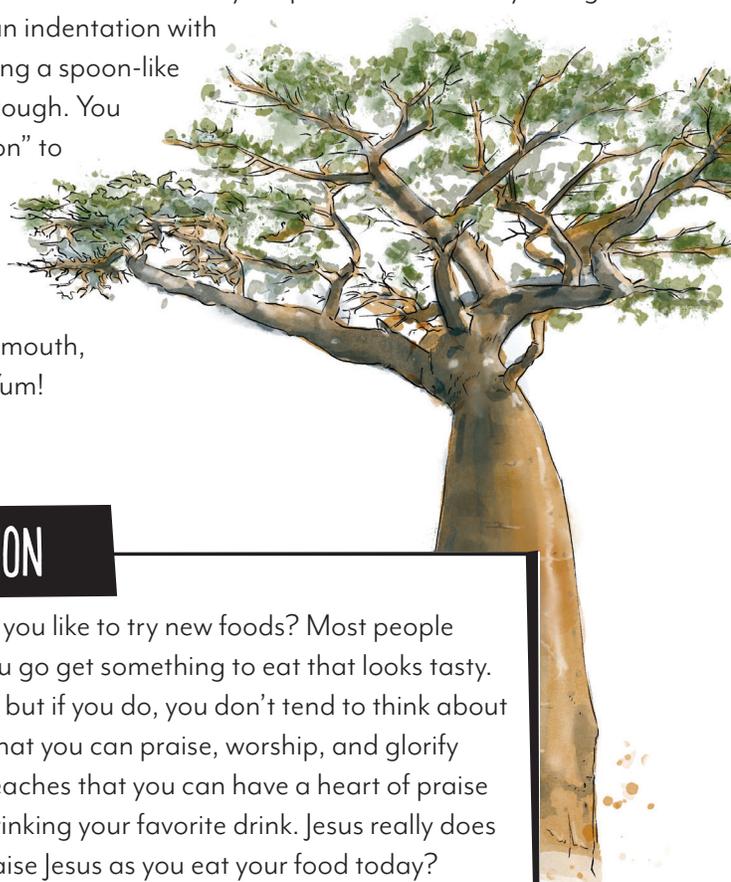
LET'S PLAY RESTAURANT!

WEATHER TEMPERATURE

LUNCHTIME IN TANZANIA

If you traveled to the Serengeti National Park and went on a safari to see elephants and zebras munching away on grass . . . you'd soon notice that your belly would start rumbling, too! What kinds of food would you eat if you had a chance to visit Tanzania? Every culture around the world has its own foods, and one of the most exciting parts of traveling, is the chance to try food that's very different from what you eat at home. *Coconut* and *plantains* are some of the most common ingredients used in many of Tanzania's flavorful dishes! *Ugali* is the national dish of Tanzania, though the same dish is eaten in a number of African countries, and it is called many different names. Ugali is a white ball of boiled cornmeal, and it's a side dish, meant to be eaten along with the savory meat, stews, or vegetarian curries that are favorites in Tanzania. To eat ugali, you would take a small piece from the ball in a dish in

the center of the table. You would roll your piece into a ball in your right hand, and make an indentation with your thumb, forming a spoon-like shape out of the dough. You then use the "spoon" to scoop up some meat, beans, or vegetables, and then put the whole bite in your mouth, "spoon" and all! Yum!



UGALI WITH MEAT + VEGETABLES

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



COCONUT IS A COMMON INGREDIENT IN A LOT OF TANZANIAN DISHES. DO YOU EAT COCONUT OFTEN?



HAVE YOU EVER TRIED NEW FOODS WHEN YOU WERE TRAVELING? WHAT DID YOU TRY?



DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD LIKE TO TRY UGALI?

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read 1 Corinthians 10:31) What is your favorite food? Do you like to try new foods? Most people don't think much about eating. When you are hungry, you go get something to eat that looks tasty. Not everyone in the world has food available all the time, but if you do, you don't tend to think about food very much; it is just part of your day. Did you know that you can praise, worship, and glorify God in EVERYTHING you do? Even eating? This verse teaches that you can have a heart of praise and worship to Jesus even when you are eating food or drinking your favorite drink. Jesus really does want to be a part of every aspect of your life. Can you praise Jesus as you eat your food today?



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NILE CROCODILES

PROVERBS 6:20-21

READ IT, WRITE IT, CHOOSE IT

SIGHT WORD: WHERE

STORY PROBLEMS

LISTENING TO YOUR PARENTS

NILE CROCODILES

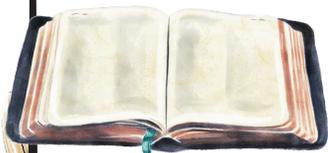
Does this creature's toothy grin look friendly to you? When you think of predators of the savanna, lions, hyenas, and cheetahs are probably the first that come to mind. However, you shouldn't forget about the scaly crocodile! These crocodiles start out pretty small when they hatch from eggs, but they just keep growing and growing! A few Nile crocodiles can even reach the massive length of 20 feet (6 m)! (*Show your child approximately how long this is.*) A mother crocodile digs a hole in a sandy bank before laying dozens of eggs in the hole. While waiting for her babies to hatch, she and the father crocodile will stay close to the nest, guarding it against any predator who might think crocodile eggs would make a tasty snack. Once the mother starts to hear the peeps and chirps of her babies, she opens the nest and helps her babies get to the water. Sometimes, if a baby needs help getting out of its egg, she'll take the egg into her mouth and gently use her powerful jaw to help crack it a little more so that her baby can get out. Baby crocodiles eat insects and small aquatic creatures at first, but as they grow, they begin to feast on bigger food, like fish. A full-grown crocodile can attack and eat large prey like zebras, antelope, and even young hippos!



NILE CROCODILE

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Proverbs 6:20-21) Many reptiles leave their eggs once they are laid, and the babies must look after themselves once they are hatched. Crocodiles are different. Not only do the mother and father crocodile watch the eggs in the nest, but they help them get safely to the water once hatched. The hatchlings stay with their mother and learn from her until they are ready to be out on their own. Their mother's teaching allows the young crocodiles to know how to stay safe and hunt in a challenging environment. This proverb teaches children to obey their parents and follow the truths that their parents teach them.



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



ARE CROCODILES BORN FROM THEIR MOTHERS OR DO THEY HATCH FROM EGGS? (HATCH FROM EGGS)



CAN YOU NAME SOME THINGS A MOTHER CROCODILE DOES FOR HER BABIES? (GUARDS THE NEST, ETC.)



WHAT DO CROCODILES EAT? (MEAT: SMALL AND LARGE PREY)



TEACHER'S GUIDE

- NILE CROCODILES
- HEBREWS 1:3

PAGE 1

- FINISH THE SENTENCE

PAGE 2

- SUFFIX -ER

PAGE 3

- COLOR BY EVEN OR ODD

PAGE 4

- TEETH



FLOATING CROCODILE

COLD-BLOODED CROCODILES

Do you spot the crocodile? When it's floating in water, only its ears, eyes, and nostrils are visible. This helps the crocodile to remain unseen by its prey as it waits patiently for an unsuspecting animal to get a little too close! Like all reptiles, crocodiles are cold-blooded. This means that their bodies don't produce their own heat. Their body heat depends on the temperature of their surroundings. A crocodile can bask in the sunshine when it needs to warm up, and it will head for cool water when it needs to cool down. Crocodiles often lose their sharp, pointed teeth. Because Nile crocodiles live for a very long time (an average of 45 years in the wild, and sometimes much longer in captivity!), it's a good thing that their bodies are designed to keep growing new teeth to replace the ones that they lose. Otherwise, they might end up toothless and unable to eat! That's pretty interesting, isn't it? You will get a new set of teeth—your adult teeth—when you lose your baby teeth. That's all the teeth people have: just two sets. Crocodiles may lose thousands of teeth in their lifetime, but they just keep growing new ones. What an amazing design! I guess these toothy creatures really do have something to grin about—they'll never run out of teeth!

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



ARE CROCODILES COLD-BLOODED OR WARM-BLOODED? (COLD-BLOODED)



WHAT DOES A CROCODILE DO WHEN IT NEEDS TO GET WARMER? (IT BASKS IN THE SUN)



WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT CROCODILE TEETH? (THEY KEEP GROWING NEW TEETH TO REPLACE THE ONES THAT FALL OUT)

BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Hebrews 1:3) When a crocodile is cold, it has to bask in the sunshine to warm up. When a crocodile basks in the sun, it doesn't go for a jog or a swim. It just sits and soaks in the warmth of the sun's radiance. *Radiance* is just a fancy word for light or heat. The writer of Hebrews teaches that Jesus is the radiance of God's glory. Did you know that it is good for you to bask in God's "Son-shine"? When you are feeling sad or upset, or just wanting to feel the warmth of God's goodness and glory, you can put on some worship music or just begin to think about Jesus, and the warmth of His goodness will start to warm your heart. Jesus doesn't need you to do something for Him for you to feel His presence and His delight. He will warm your soul and spirit when you spend time with Him, just sitting together.





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WARTHOG

GENESIS 1:24–25

LET'S READ!

READING COMPREHENSION

REVIEW

DESIGN A BOOK COVER

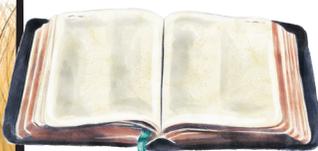
WARTHOG

Some animals are pretty, with pretty names. The warthog . . . well, it's not the prettiest animal of the savanna, and it doesn't have a very pretty name, either! However, it's interesting to learn about how this animal thrives in the grasslands. The "wart" in their name comes from the warty-looking bumps you'll notice on their faces. These aren't actually warts, but are thick growths of skin. Male warthogs, called *boars*, fight with each other when mating season comes around, trying to prove that they're stronger and tougher than all the other boars. Their "warts" help protect their faces from serious injury during these battles. Warthogs face many predators, from lions to crocodiles. They escape from predators by running away or by hiding in the burrows where they sleep. Warthogs don't dig their own burrows, instead they opt to use burrows that have been abandoned by other animals, or natural holes in the ground. Female warthogs, called *sows*, give birth to *piglets* in these burrows. Warthogs are omnivores, but most of what they eat is plants. They have a great sense of smell, and they use their strong snout to dig up roots and bulbs to snack on. What an adventure we have had, exploring the savanna together. From lions to warthogs and ostriches to chameleons, the variety of creatures who thrive in the grasslands of Africa is truly incredible!



BIBLE CONNECTION

(Read Genesis 1:24–25) Warthogs sure look funny, don't they? Sometimes it is tempting to say that creatures found in nature are "ugly" or "gross." However, the Bible tells us that when God created each creature, He saw that they were all good. He delights in each of His creations, even when we wonder why on earth He made giraffes with such long necks or warthogs with such strange growths on their heads. When you are tempted to think that something you see in creation isn't beautiful, remember that God has a beautiful design for each and every creature He created, and He has a beautiful design for you, too! As you grow up, you will look just the way God intended, each step of the way. He loves you, and you are delightful to Him!



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



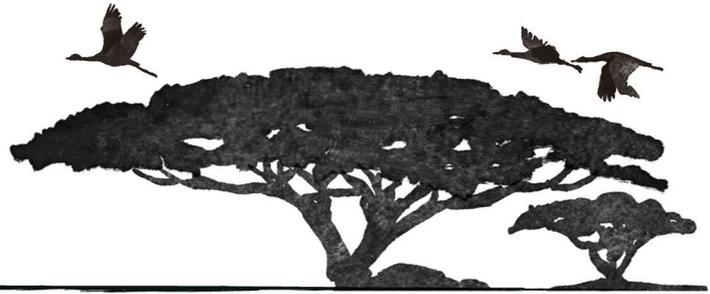
DO WARTHOGS REALLY HAVE WARTS ON THEIR FACES? (NO)



HOW CAN WARTHOGS ESCAPE FROM PREDATORS? (BY RUNNING AWAY OR HIDING IN THEIR BURROWS)



WHERE DO WARTHOGS SLEEP? (IN BURROWS)



LET'S REVIEW!

People who go on safari also have the chance to enjoy the tasty and savory foods served in the countries where savanna animals make their home. Yum! This week, we read about the crocodile and his grin—it's pretty incredible that he can keep growing new teeth after the old ones fall out. We also read about warthogs, and we learned that the bumps on their faces aren't actually warts. This week, we practiced reading words with a vowel followed by the letter *r*. We practiced all sorts of math skills! The more we practice, the more skilled we become! We also talked about how God tells us in the Bible that we should listen to the instruction our parents give and obey those directions.

- What is your favorite animal that you learned about on this adventure into the savanna?
- How many syllables are in this word: *elevator*? We can clap it out to help us figure it out! (*four*)
- Which is more fun, adding or subtracting?
- What does God think about His creation? (*It is delightful, lovely, and good.*)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

SAVANNA UNIT PARTY

Take some time to celebrate your child's accomplishment, completing the 4th unit in the Ready to Read series! This is a big deal! You can make this a celebration in any way that your family prefers. If your child likes to perform, you could allow them to demonstrate some of their new knowledge and skills for family members. You could watch a fun savanna-related movie as a family, eat some food that reminds you of savanna animals, make crafts, or play games!

PRAYER BREAK

Thank you, Jesus, that you had a plan when you created each animal on the savanna. Thank you that you love us and that you are delighted with us. Help us to learn to do everything for you and your glory. Give us wisdom to honor our parents and help us to feel the presence of Jesus when we bask in His "Sonshine." In your name we pray. Amen.





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