

EYFS Activity Ideas: African Animals

Area of Learning							
	C&L	PSED	PD	Literacy	Mathematics	UW	EAD
Activity Ideas	Sing a range of animal themed songs eg: <i>5 Little Monkeys, Down In The Jungle</i>	Collaborative play in African animal themed Small World provision – can children extend and elaborate play ideas.	Play <i>In The Jungle The Mighty Jungle</i> . Practise moving like different animals (Lion, Snake, Monkey, Bird etc.) incorporating different movements eg: hop, crawl, stand on one leg	Enjoy a range of African animal themed stories eg: <i>Giraffes Can't Dance, Handa's Surprise, Meerkat Mail, The Ugly Five, We're Going on a Lion Hunt</i>	Singing <i>5 Little Monkeys</i> , can children represent the correct number on their fingers? Can they say what one more/one less is?	Go on a 'Lion Hunt' outside and describe what they can see, hear, smell, feel & touch as they move through different areas. (If possible, hide a toy lion for them to find!)	Explore the sounds of different musical instruments (preferable drums, rain sticks, wood blocks etc) Explore making rhythms and patterns.
	Using the poem on the CWP Educational Resources page, learn the poem together and think of actions to go along with the rhymes.	Talk about what African animals eat. Think about animals such as Meerkats, Lions, Zebras, Monkeys. What foods do we like to eat? Can children sort some foods into healthy/treats?	Draw, colour and cut out an African animal mask. (use photos of animals and some examples to give ideas) Children to make holes in sides of mask and try tying ribbon or string if able.	Children to draw and label some African animals. Children to try to independently write phonetically plausible labels for their animal. Can they think of another animal that starts with that sound?	Using animal figures children to sort them independently from smallest to biggest. Can they then use multilink cubes to measure each animal and record the number of cubes used? Encourage estimation of amounts.	Using the Shadow Art activity from the CWP Educational Resources page, encourage children to do the activity outside and talk about how the sunlight creates shadows and talk about features of the animals as they draw.	Practise colour mixing to create African artwork – have photos of patterns, masks, animals as inspiration. Can the children create an animal pattern or African scene? Can they create a mask?
	Using photos of African animals, describe the animal and children guess which animal they think it is. Extension – children have a go at describing an animal for others to guess.	Read <i>Giraffes Can't Dance</i> and discuss how Gerald might have felt at certain points in the story. What makes you feel happy/sad? How can you help a friend when they are feeling sad? What do you do to make yourself happy again?	Using a large blue piece of material as a 'river', children are paired up as African animals who are trying to cross the river to get to their partner. They have to throw and catch a ball across the 'river' to one another and then they may hop/jump across.	Using photo prompts of African animals, children to try and independently write phonetically plausible sentences describing the animal. (Animals you could use: Lion, Giraffe, Meerkat, Snake, Vulture, Rhino, Zebra)	Using a set of weighing scales, children to compare weights of different animal figures. Which was the heaviest? Which was the lightest? Can you count cubes in one side to weigh the same as that animal? How many cubes?	Look at Africa on a map and talk about where we live. Compare to photos of the UK and talk discuss the similarities and differences between weather, animals, houses, schools etc.	Using role play resources, can the children reenact <i>Handa's Surprise</i> ? Which African animal ate the first fruit? Children take turns to play different parts and retell the story.