

Safari Sounds

by Susan Ring, illustrated by John Kanzler

Suggested grade and level: Pre-K and lower elementary

Topic: animals, sounds.

Skill builders: sounds and vocabulary. I sentences. (I hear a \_\_\_\_.)

This is a book two intriguing interactive features: flaps to be lifted and buttons you or a child can push for hearing the sounds of the individual animals.

Synopsis: as you open the book, the two pages open will feature one animal. The left flap has a riddle describing the animal, with the sentence, "What am I?" The left flap is the habitat of the animal. Lifting the flap, you find an illustration of the animal and the name of the animal.

Method: for very young children or children of lower language ability, skip the riddle and start with the flap on the right. Name the animal and push the button for that animal. There is subtle color coding using the border around the picture and the color of the button. This is too subtle for early "readers" so draw an arrow with permanent marker pointing to the appropriate button.

Elephant: The elephant's trumpeting call is pretty loud, so I always model the sentence, "That was LOUD!" Also, model, "I hear an elephant."

Chimpanzee: Almost all children can imitate the sound of a chimp, so allow the children some vocal play. Model, "I hear a chimp." If they call it a monkey, let it pass. Other possible sentences: "The monkey (chimp) is in a tree."

Hyena: This is an animal in The Lion King. There are lots of lion king books and lion king toys out there. These can be used as well. Possible sentences, "I hear a hyena." "I hear laughing." "The hyena is laughing."

Lion: "I hear a lion." "The lion is roaring."

Extended activities: animal toys representative of the animals of the book can be manipulated to hug each other, modeling sentences about hugging. "The snake hugs the giraffe," etc. The children can hug the animal toys, with everyone or individuals explaining the actions, "Johnnie is hugging the snake," or "The snake is hugging Johnnie."

Baboon and vulture: These can be skipped with very young ones.

Zebra: "I hear a zebra." "The zebra has stripes."

Hippo: "I hear a hippo."

At more advanced stages, after repetitions, skip the pictures and just have the child/children push buttons at random, having you guess what the animal sound is. You model, "I hear a zebra." Etc. Switch roles and have the children guess the animal when you push the buttons.

Tip: use this book as a resource when reading stories about the animals in this book.

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