

CASSOWARY “WHAT’S MY FAVORITE PART” CREATIVE DRAMA MINI-ACTIVITY

Activity Title: What’s My Favorite Part

Target Age Group: Pre-3rd grade

Estimated Time: 10 -15 minutes

Educational Purpose of Activity: The educational purpose of this activity is to help reading comprehension and to build creativity and teamwork

Creative Drama Vocabulary: Tableau- is a frozen picture (like a statue) that tells a story

Instructional Steps of The Activity:

- 1st Read “Then the Cassowary Pooped” to your students/children.
- 2nd Choose 3 favorite parts of the story
- 3rd Have the students create a Tableau of their favorite part of the book. If you have a large group, divide the children into small groups.
- 4th If you would like to work on reading comprehension, have the students write what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the book on the board.
- 5th Have the students create a Tableau for each part of the story. Then have the students perform the tableaux in book order in front of the other groups.

CASSOWARY “BE AN ANIMAL” CREATIVE DRAMA MINI-ACTIVITY

Activity Title:	Be an animal
Target Age Group:	Pre-2 nd grade
Estimated Time:	10 -15 minutes
Educational Purpose of Activity:	The educational purpose of this activity is to learn about animals characteristics, build creativity, and teamwork
Creative Drama Vocabulary:	Body Levels – Moving your body at different levels, high, medium, and low.
Instructional Steps of The Activity:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1st Read “Then the Cassowary Pooped” to your students/children.2nd Choose 3 favorite animals the story3rd As a class or at home research these animals. Find out what they eat, where they live, how they hunt for food, and how they interact with other animals.4th Have the students stand in a circle and call out an animal. Have the students move around the room as this animal. Do this for 30 – 45 seconds.5th Stop the students and talk about how they can move as the animal using different levels. Have the students move around the room with the new direction of using levels.6th Stop the students and remind them about what you learned about the animal. Ex: what the animal eats, how the animal interacts with other animals ect. Have the student move around the room and start interacting with other students and executing an activity as the animal. Ex: finding food, eating, playing ect.7th Repeat steps 1-6 as many times as you like becoming a new animal each time.

CASSOWARY "COLORS OF THE RAINBOW" CREATIVE DANCE MINI-ACTIVITY

Activity Title: Colors of the Rainbow

Target Age Group: Pre-3rd grade

Estimated Time: 10 -15 minutes

Educational Purpose of Activity: The educational purpose of this activity is to help reading comprehension and to build creativity and teamwork

Creative Dance Vocabulary: Levels - Levels of movements are high (standing up as tall as you can with arms up can be a very high level), medium (bent over slightly can be an example of a medium level), low level (low down to the ground as an example of a low level)

Supplies needed: Rainbow colored scarves, one for each student

Instructional Steps of The Activity:

- 1st Read "Then the Cassowary Pooped" to your students/children.
- 2nd Gather the students in a circle
- 3rd Talk to your students about levels. Demonstrate each level to the students and have them mirror the level back.
- 4th Talk to the students about the different colors of the rainbow. R.O.Y. G. B.I.V (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet)
- 5th Play some fun music with no words so you can still talk to the students.
- 6th Call out each color one at a time and have the students with that color scarf dance around in the middle of the circle. When they are dancing call out a level at which the students should dance. Continue this with each color.
- 7th After each color has gone, have the students line up in the order of R.O.Y G. B.I.V. Have the

students follow you in a follow-the-leader.
Dance around the room using levels.

8th After the activity is complete, discuss the
different levels and the colors of the rainbow
used in the activity.

CASSOWARY "PATHWAY FUN" CREATIVE DANCE MINI-ACTIVITY

Activity Title:	Pathway Fun
Target Age Group:	Pre-3 rd grade
Estimated Time:	10 -15 minutes
Educational Purpose of Activity:	The educational purpose of this activity is to help reading comprehension and to build creativity and teamwork
Creative Dance Vocabulary:	Levels - Levels of movements are high (standing up as tall as you can with arms up can be a very high level), medium (bent over slightly can be an example of a medium level), low level (low down to the ground as an example of a low level) Pathways - direction and path of movement
Supplies needed:	Objects for obstacles. For Example: hula-hoop, large block, towel, books, or bowls.
Instructional Steps of The Activity:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1st Read "Then the Cassowary Pooped" to your students/children.2nd Have the students get in to a circle3rd Discuss different levels and pathways with your students. Demonstrate each level to the students and have them do each level with you.4th Have the children stand up and follow you around the room taking different pathways and using different levels. If you feel the students are ready have one of the students take the lead.5th Place objects around the floor and tell the students these objects represent things in a jungle or rain forest. Go around the room and have the students name these items. For Example: a blanket or towel could be a watering hole.

- 6th Divide the class in to small groups. Give each group a card with the name of an animal from the book on it.
- 7th Have each group develop a way to move and act like that animal.
- 8th Have each group choose a pathway across the floor as that animal. Encourage each student to interact with the items on the floor as the animal might interact with real item from nature.
- 9th Have the other students guess what animal each group is portraying.
- 10th Gather the students and discuss the different pathways and interactions used by each group.

ANIMAL DISCRIPTIONS

The Cassowary Bird

- Fact #1: The Cassowary Bird is a large bird that lives in Australia and New Guinea.
- Fact #2: The Cassowary Bird is the biggest bird in Australia and the second biggest bird in the world.
- Fact #3: The Cassowary Bird can grow to be 6.5 feet tall and weight 130 pounds but it can not fly!
- Fact #4: The Cassowary Bird has three-toed feet that have sharp claws. The Cassowary kicks these feet for protection.
- Fact #5: The Cassowary Bird can run up to 35 mph.
- Fact #6: The Cassowary Bird eats mostly fruit but it cannot digest the big fruit seeds.
- Fact #7: There are big seeds in the Cassowary poop and the poop is responsible for helping the rain forest survive.

The Queen Alexandria's Birdwing

- Fact #1: The Queen Alexandria's Birdwing is the largest Butterfly in the world.
- Fact #2: The Queen Alexandria's Birdwing lives in Papua New Guinea.
- Fact #3: The wings of the Queen Alexandria's Birdwing can reach up to one foot.
- Fact #4: When the Queen Alexandria's Birdwing is still a caterpillar, it eats a poisonous plant called the Pipevine plant. This plant makes the butterfly toxic to all predators. Any predator that eats the butterfly will get very sick.
- Fact #5: The Queen Alexandria's Birdwing lives for three to eight months.

The Tree Kangaroo

Fact #1: The Tree Kangaroo lives in Australian and New Guinea.

Fact #2: The Tree Kangaroo lives in the trees of the rain forest.

Fact #3: The Tree Kangaroo is a large marsupial with a heavy body, strong arms and legs, and a long tail.

Fact #4: The Tree Kangaroo's average head and body length is 26 inches and it can weigh up to 23 pounds.

Fact #5: The Tree Kangaroo has long sharp claws and rough footpads for climbing in the trees.

Fact #6: The Tree Kangaroo uses its tail to leap ten to twenty feet from branch to branch.

Giant Wood Spiders

Fact #1: The Giant Wood Spider lives in many places from Japan to Australia and West India.

Fact #2: Some tribes' people of Papua, New Guinea eat the Giant Wood Spider as a tasty snack.

Fact #3: The Giant Wood Spider has large yellow spots under its legs.

Fact #4: Some times the spider's web is about a meter across and it can sometimes catch small birds or bats.

Slow Loris

Fact #1: The Slow Loris has great big eyes.

Fact #2: The Slow Loris can be eight to twelve inches and weigh up to four and a half pounds.

Fact #3: The Slow Loris' ears are small and hidden in their fur.

Fact #4: The Slow Loris sleeps during the day and is awake during the night.

Fact #5: The Slow Loris can protect itself against enemies by producing a toxin that they mix with their saliva.

Bird of Paradise

Fact #1: Birds of Paradise live in Eastern Indonesia, Torres Strait Islands, Papua New Guinea, and eastern Australia.

Fact #2: Birds of Paradise can range in size 6 to 43 inches. They can weigh from 1.8 ounces to 15.2 oz.

Fact #3: Birds of Paradise have short or long bills and very strong feet.

Fact #4: Birds of Paradise make their nests out of soft materials, such as leaves and ferns.

Long-Snouted Echidna (Spiny Anteater)

Fact #1: Long-Snouted Echidnas are about the size of a small dog.

Fact #3: Long-Snouted Echidnas have long, strong claws.

Fact #2: When the Long-Snouted Echidna is scared it lies down on the ground, tucks its head in, and digs its long claws into the dirt so it can't be tipped over.

Cuscus

Fact #1: The Cuscus is the largest of the possums and looks a little like a lemur.

Fact #2: The Cuscus has small ears and beady eyes.

Fact #3: The Cuscus's fur is thick and woolly with a gray to rust color.

Fact #3: The Cuscus is about 25 inches long and weights about 13 pounds.

Fact #4: The Cuscus is a slow moving, sluggish animal.

Fact #5: The Cuscus sleeps during the day and is awake during the night.

Green Tree Python

Fact #1: The Green Tree Python is endangered in their native countries.

Fact #2: The Green Tree Python can be up to seven feet.

Fact #3: The Green Tree Python is green and coils itself around branches.

Fact #4: When the Green Tree Python coils up it can look like a cinnamon bun.

Fruit Bat

Fact #1: Fruit Bats have very long, webbed fingers that act as their wings.

Fact #2: Fruit Bats can see and smell very well.

Fact #3: Fruit Bats sleep during the day and are awake during the night.

Fact #4: Fruit Bats hang with their wings wrapped around themselves, or if it is hot they will fan themselves with their wings.

Fact #5: Fruit Bats can fly very well, however they cannot land very well. Sometimes they crash into other bats.

Fact #6: Fruit Bats eat fruit and flowers. They suck out the juice and leave the pulp.

Please note: More information about each of the animals may be found on pages 33-36 of the book. Brief information about each of the trees Cassowary makes is included on the book jacket.