

Animals

This half-term's animal theme is introduced through the popular story *Handa's Surprise*. Children explore characters, setting and events, and learn more about the featured animals and fruits. African animals are compared with those that live in Britain. Children write animal stories based on Handa's encounters, but set in their locality. They read, learn, recite and write animal poems using the knowledge and vocabulary gleaned from earlier activities. Prior learning is embedded and new learning opportunities introduced.



Expected prior learning

- Understand the meaning of the term plot.
- Know what is meant by a question mark and an exclamation mark.
- Can use describing words and '-er' and '-est' suffixes.



Overview of progression

- Children become more familiar with a popular story and learn to sequence the plot in order.
- They research non-fiction books and learn new vocabulary, before including these words in their own sentences.
- They take on the role of animal characters, moving and exhibiting body language and sounds. Work on adjectives encourages children to add details of character traits to their writing.
- They embed previous understanding of suffixes as they use these to denote past and present tenses and plurals.
- They learn to classify members of the animal kingdom, identify animals and write about them with confidence.
- Children adapt a well-known story, and incorporate ideas from poems and rhyming words into their own poetry.



Creative context

- The children express their ideas creatively using paint and collage, drama, small-world and role play.
- Children enhance their scientific knowledge of the way that the animal kingdom is classified, which links to science.
- Aspects of order and sequence are included in activities involving ordering of animals and sequencing story events; children create a class pictogram, which all links to maths.



Preparation

The book focussed on in this chapter is *Handa's Surprise* by Eileen Browne.

You will also need:

Percussion instruments; flat basket; examples of fruit from the story; coloured pens; scissors; strips of white paper; large sheets of paper; glue sticks; sticky tape; building blocks or cardboard boxes; card strips; examples of cartoon strips; internet access; small-world animals; non-fiction books about African animals, Africa and the animal kingdom; globe; atlases; sand tray; fabric with African designs; cameras; camouflage fabric; binoculars; safari hat; African safari holiday brochures; magnifying glasses; clipboards; small-world models and books about British animals; materials to create a display about animals; animal poetry books;

On the CD-ROM you will find:

Media resources '*Handa's Surprise* book cover', 'Extract from *Handa's Surprise*'; interactive activities 'Question or not?', 'Caption choices', 'Choose the label', 'Favourite animals', 'Recount frame', 'Rhymes and patterns', 'Finding rhymes', 'Down on the farm', 'Identifying the senses'; photocopiable pages '*Handa's* fruit', 'African animals' 'Outline map of Africa', 'Animal factsheet', 'On the Ning Nang Nong', 'Fun facts (1)', 'Fun facts (2)