

Teacher's Notes

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The Waterhole Graeme Base

The Waterhole creatively encourages an array of activities that readily integrate maths and language. From the simple counting of one to ten, to a study of unique environments around the globe, this beautiful book will stimulate children's ideas about the world around them.

The following activities have been divided into three broad areas of **Lower**, **Middle** and **Upper** Primary levels. As the teacher you will be well aware of the appropriate level of challenge for your students. Therefore these activities can be expanded or simplified to cater for different age and ability levels. The tasks will encourage children to research, report and share their learning and could be utilised for the classroom in various ways such as:

- Discussion
- Writing & drawing tasks
- Drama & role play
- Class charts and diagrams
- Maps
- Oral presentation
- Cooperative group work-pairs, small or large groups
- Collaborative book making

LOWER PRIMARY

Write the numbers 1-10 in numerals and words and draw animals to match each number, (two tigers, three toucans etc)

Make a class chart to be added to as children in pairs discover hidden animals on each page.

Using magazines & newspapers, find pictures of animals that are depicted in the book to cut & paste on small groups chart.

Look at a world map and highlight a few of the countries that are used in the book. On their own map have the children colour in two countries that they know.

Give the children ten pages with large numbers printed on them 1-10, so they can colour in each number as an animal colour as Graeme Base has done. Make these into their own book. Children to write the matching word underneath each number.

Discussion questions

- What happened to the water? Why do you think that?
- Why do we all need water?
- When the waterhole is getting smaller, how do you think the animals are feeling?
- Of all the animals in the book which one is your favourite. Why?

MIDDLE PRIMARY

Alphabet animals.

- Children to write the alphabet and think of an animal that is depicted in the book that matches each letter. for example, A-anteater etc.
- Children to draw each animal and make into a book or chart.

Distinguishing features of animals.

- Children to think of ten animals that have very distinguished features, for example, elephants-trunks tortoises –shells)

Animal classifications.

- Children to sort and classify animals into categories such as reptiles, birds, cats, insects.

Animal conversations.

- On each page Graeme Base has the animals talking to one another. This could be an activity for introducing speech balloons. Ask children to draw and write their own interpretation of what the animals are saying to one another. Share with the rest of the group.

The waterhole is a meeting place for the animals to get together and talk and laugh and be with their friends.

- Ask the children to share with their group where they meet their friends and families. Is it at home or school or the park? What are the characteristics of these meeting places.

Imaginary pets.

- Children select an unusual pet- a rhino, a giraffe, a boa constrictor!! Choose a name for their pet and think of two things their pet might need.

UPPER PRIMARY

Show on a world map these countries or regions that are depicted in the book.

- Africa
- India
- South America
- Himalayas
- North America
- China
- Europe
- Galapagos Islands
- Australia

Animal & country match up.

- Make two lists one of countries or regions listed above and one of animals from around the world.
- Ask children to match at least three animals to each region.

Graeme Base uses adjectives to describe the animals on every page.

- Ask children to think of ten animals different from the main ones depicted on each page and think of two adjectives to describe them. Some alliteration work would also be worthwhile here.

Ask the children to design their own waterhole page, using one of the habitats from the book or perhaps another one.

- Can they also hide animals in the surroundings?
- Swap them around their group or pass them to the younger grades, perhaps make these into a class book.

Waterhole words.

- Use these words to stimulate discussion through spelling and discovering their meaning and use:

habitat	cycle	deserts
environment	seasons	mountains
resource	jungles	forests
precious	woodlands	

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