

Alligators All Around

Alligators All Around

by Maurice Sendek (Harper)

Themes: Alphabet/Humor/Music

Level: Pre-K - 1

Length: 2 minutes, animated

Summary

ALLIGATORS ALL AROUND is a funny picture alphabet, sung with lively lyrics by Carole King. The number opens with several alligators dancing around to the Lyric "A, alligators all around". To illustrate the letter B, an alligator pulls balloons out of a paper bag and bursts them with a needle. This visual is accompanied by the lyric, "B, bursting balloons". As the picture alphabet progresses, the alligator continues to pull objects out of the paper bag, or use the bag itself to represent objects beginning with each letter of the alphabet.

Young children will be delighted by the humorous images and lively lyrics.

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Alligators All Around with children. Then ask: What other things can you think of that the alligator might do for each letter of the alphabet? What was the silliest thing the alligator did? If you were an alligator, do you think the alligator in the story would make a good friend? Why? Why not? If the alligator in the story could have other animal friends, what kinds of animals would they be?

Display an alphabet chart or poster. See how many objects children can name that begin with each letter of the alphabet.

Sing the alphabet song with children. Then provide a sheet of cardboard, on which a letter of the alphabet is written, for each child in the group. Then have children stand in a line and sing the alphabet song again. This time, as each letter is mentioned, have the child who is holding that letter hop out of the line.

After Viewing Activities

Fill a large paper bag with objects with names beginning with different letters of the alphabet. Have children in the class take turns closing their eyes, reaching into the bag, and pulling out an object. As children show the objects to their classmates, see if children in the group can identify the letter the object starts with. Continue the activity until each child in the group has had an opportunity to pull an object out of the bag.

Work with children to make large cardboard letters that they can wear around their necks. Have children choose the letter they would like to wear and then draw pictures of objects that begin with the letter they are wearing. Later, have children stand in front of the class while wearing their letters and share their drawings with their classmates. Have others in the group say the name of the letter each child is wearing, and the names of the objects in the drawings, out loud.

Cut out a large alligator from a sheet of kraft paper. Have children work together to paint the alligator. Then have children paint a large body of water with blue paint for the alligator to swim in. Attach the alligator and the body of water to a bulletin board. Tell children that this alligator finds objects underwater that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Have children paint pictures that begin with each letter of the alphabet on the water and discuss their contributions with their classmates.

Other book based films and videos for early childhood are available from Weston Woods. These include:

CAPS FOR SALE by Esphyr Slobodkina
THE CATERPILLAR AND THE POLLIWOG by Jack Kent
CHANGES, CHANGES by Pat Hutchins
EACH PEACH PEAR PLUM by Janet and Allen Ahlberg
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOON by Frank Asch
HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON by Crockett Johnson
MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS by Robert McCloskey
THE NAPPING HOUSE written by Audrey Wood and illustrated by Don Wood
PICNIC by Emily Arnold McCully
THE SNOWMAN by Raymond Briggs
WHISTLE FOR WILLIE by Ezra Jack Keats

CALL 1-800-243-5020 TO ORDER THESE AND OTHER WESTON WOODS VIDEOS!

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction

As a lover of alphabet books and of all things Maurice Sendak, I was delighted to get my hands on an original 1962 edition of Sendak's Alligators All Around: An Alphabet a charming, tiny gem that tells the non-narrative story of an alligator family who go about their daily business as young readers explore the progression of the alphabet. Also: Because Brain Pickings is in its fourteenth year and because I write primarily about ideas of a timeless character, I have decided to plunge into my vast archive every Alligators All Around. Words and music by Carole King and Maurice Sendak. Copyright © 1975 Colgems-EMI Music Inc. and Elorac Music, Inc. Copyright renewed. All rights administered by Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, 424 Church Street, Suite 1200, Nashville, TN 37219. International copyright secured, all rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of the Hal Leonard Corporation.

Footnotes. A "Alligators All Around. "Tienes que comer, pequeña," Yoyo coaxed a stubborn four-year-old who had pursed her lips tightly shut and was currently shaking her head with eyes squeezed as tightly shut as her mouth. "Nç xÅ«yÃ o chÃ«, bÇŽobÃ"i." Jemma attempted the same encouragement in her mother's native tongue. Fitz shoved a large piece of pancake into his mouth and caught the syrup dripping from his chin with his palm. He rubbed his hand on the napkin next to his plate and around his chewing he sighed. Alligators are some of the longest living creatures both in the wild and captivity and have lives about as long as, or even longer, than humans. In the wild, alligators can live for about 50 years and in captivity for even longer. All of the alligators on this list are American alligators there is only one other extant species of alligator, the Chinese alligator. The oldest of these alligators are 80 years old and still going strong. These alligators are so old that they are World War II survivors!