

Science Story Adventures



African Savanna

Learning outcomes

- » Students know different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Life Sciences - Grade 1)
- » Students know examples of diverse life forms in different environments, such as oceans, deserts, tundra, forests, grasslands, and wetlands. (Life Sciences - Grade 3)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

We All Went on Safari by Laurie Krebs

Water Hole Waiting by Jane and Christopher Kurtz

Rain by Manya Stojic

Activities we did

- » We looked at the differences between horns and antlers by looking at the skulls of a giraffe and a hartebeest. We also compared these to the skull of a predator - a lion.
http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/topics/mammal_anatomy/horns_and_antlers.html

Today's craft: Striped Zebra



You will need:

- » Zebra template (below)
- » Strips of black construction paper cut into random shapes and sizes.
- » Glue stick
- » Googly eyes
- » Crayons

Directions:

1. Glue the stripes onto your zebra - remember the design of each zebra's stripes is unique.
2. Stick on a googly eye.
3. Draw an African savanna scene around your zebra.

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

African Critters by Robert B. Haas. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL336 .H225 2008
Wildlife photographer Haas features many savanna animals in this fact- and photo-filled book.

Elephant's Story by Harriet Blackford & Manja Stojic. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL 737 .P98 B59 2008.
Learn about elephants in this gentle story about these savanna dwellers.

Here is the African Savanna by Madeleine Dunphy. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH 194 .D926 2006
A simple, cumulative story that shows the interaction of plants and animals on the African savanna.

The White Giraffe by Lauren St. John. Nat.Ctr. Juv. PZ7 .S774 Wh 2007
Martine goes to live with her grandmother on a wildlife reserve in Africa. She soon discovers there's a mystery revolving around a mythical white giraffe.

DVDs

National Geographic's Swinging Safari. Nat. Ctr. Media QL336 .S95 2005.
Spin, National Geographic's animated globe-on-the-go, explores the animals of Africa.

Websites

AfriCam
See what's actually happening on the African savanna with this live webcam.
<http://www.africam.com/wildlife/index.php>

Africa: Explore the Regions - Savanna
A PBS website looking at the African savanna.
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/africa/explore/savanna/savanna_overview_lo.html

African Savanna for Kids
Play some fun games and learn about African savanna animals on this webpage from the National Zoo.
<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/AfricanSavanna/af-savskids.cfm>

Savanna
Find out more about savanna animals.
<http://www.ahsd25.k12.il.us/curriculum/africa/svanimals.htm>

