

GO TO SLEEP, GECKO!

Kindergarten

Outcome:

Students will learn about the unique characteristics of geckos.

Materials:

Map or globe, ruler

Color in the Gecko worksheet, crayons or markers, Velcro tape, scissors

Unlined paper

Trace Gecko's Path worksheet

Wide mouth jar with lid, tool to punch holes in lid

Elephant Shapes worksheet

1-cup all-purpose flour, 1 egg lightly beaten, ¼ t salt, 1 cup milk, 4 T butter, 4 bananas, sugar, shallow non-stick pan, stove, bowl, spoon, spatula, paper plates, napkins Optional: lemon wedges, ice cream

Optional: Treasured Time with Five-to Ten-Year-Olds (Jan Brennan, August House 1990)

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

Introductory Activity:

- Teacher asks students to raise their hands if they have ever seen a gecko.
- Ask students to share knowledge about geckos.
- Inform students:
- Geckos are found on every continent except Antarctica (show on map or globe).
- Geckos play a big role in the environment because they eat cockroaches, mosquitoes, termites, moths, and other insects that are considered a nuisance by many people.
- Geckos have large mouths, large yellow eyes, a wide flat head, a long tongue, and a short thick tail.
- When a gecko feels threatened, it can detach its tail and it will eventually grow a new one. This helps the gecko escape from dangerous situations.
- Geckos can be from a half-inch to 14 inches in length (show with ruler).
- Geckos can camouflage themselves by changing their body color and body patterns to blend with their background.
- Most geckos have tiny hairy scales on the bottom of their toes that acts like Velcro. These microscopic hooks beneath their toes help the gecko cling to any surface and even walk on ceilings.
- Geckos are the only lizards that can make noises. These noises can sound like barking, chirping, chattering, or croaking. The Tokay gecko found in Bali (show on map or globe), makes a sound that sounds like, "gecko." It is the lizard for which geckos were named.

Teacher Reading of Story:

Teacher informs students that they will be listening to a story from Bali. Ask students to listen carefully, to look at the book's illustrations, and to note which gecko facts are incorporated into this story.

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Comprehension:

1. Why did Gecko wake Elephant?
2. What was keeping Gecko awake?
3. What did Elephant say to the fireflies?
4. What did the fireflies say to Elephant?
5. What did Elephant say to Buffalo?
6. Why did Buffalo poop in the road?
7. What did Elephant say to Rain?
8. Why did Rain come every afternoon?
9. What did the Gecko eat?
10. How does this story end?

Interpretation:

1. How did Gecko feel when he couldn't sleep?
2. How did Elephant feel when Gecko woke him up?
3. Do you ever have trouble sleeping?
4. Who or what keeps you up at night?
5. Would you have trouble sleeping with fireflies flashing their lights all around you?
6. What did Elephant mean when he told Gecko that the world is all connected?
7. Do you think Elephant gave Gecko good advice when he told him that there are some things you just have to put up with?
8. What kinds of things do you think most Kindergartners have to put up with?
9. Is Gecko a Tokay gecko? How do you know?
10. Which facts about Geckos were incorporated into the story?
11. Which facts about Geckos were shown in the illustrations?

Follow Up Activities:

- Music

For the most part, Balinese literature should be recited or sung aloud, not read silently. Sing this song about the story and then make up more verses for this song. Create more songs about the story using other familiar tunes.

“Gecko” (sung to the tune of “Bingo”)

There was a lizard that couldn't sleep
And Gecko was his name- O
G-E-C-K-O, G-E-C-K-O, G-E-C-K-O,
And Gecko was his name- O

Sing song a second time and clap every time there is an “o.” Do not say “o,” just clap.
Sing song a third time and clap every time there is an “o” and “k.” Continue in this fashion until all of the letters are clapped.

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Follow Up Activities cont.:

- Art

Color in the Gecko worksheet

Materials: Color in the Gecko worksheet, crayons or markers, Velcro tape (Velcro on one side and tape on the other. There are 2 halves of each segment of Velcro that stick together.), scissors

There are about 750 different types of geckos. They live in deserts, forests, jungles, and even people's homes. Geckos can be a dull gray, a tan color, or brightly colored. The patterns of colors on their bodies vary. If desired, find pictures of Geckos in books or on the Internet.

Directions:

1. Color in the gecko and cut it out.
2. Place Velcro on the underside of the gecko.
3. Students choose where in the room to place the gecko (including the ceiling) and teacher places the other part of the Velcro tape on that spot.
4. Velcro pieces stick together and hold the gecko in place like a real gecko.
5. Students each make Gecko sounds and learn that a house with many geckos can be a noisy place!

- Draw a picture of the place you sleep.

Materials: paper, crayons

Geckos like to hide under tree bark, under rocks, and in holes. They often sleep in these places. Where do you sleep? Draw a picture of the place where you sleep.

- Trace Gecko's Path worksheet

Materials: Trace Gecko's Path worksheet, crayons

Directions:

1. Trace the path from Gecko's house to Elephant's house with a green crayon.
2. Trace the path from Elephant's house to Gecko's house with a red crayon.
3. Do you remember how many times Gecko went to Elephant's house? (four)

- Build A Firefly House

Materials: Wide mouth jar with lid, tool to punch holes in lid

Catch a firefly and place it in the jar for a short time for observation. If you live west of Kansas, you might be out of luck. Fireflies that glow are not usually found west of Kansas.

For more ideas about firefly houses you can make, see page 99, Treasured Time with Five-to Ten-Year-Olds (Jan Brennan, August House, 1990).

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Extensions:

- Animal Tag
 1. Students are divided into groups named for collective nouns.
 2. Two students are chosen to be the hunters.
 3. The students stand on the starting line and the hunters stand a distance away.
 4. The hunters call out a group and those students run to a designated spot and back to the starting line.
 5. The hunters try to catch as many animals as they can.
 6. Any animal that is tagged by the hunter(s) becomes a hunter until all animals are caught.
 7. Have children move or travel like the animal named.

Suggested collective nouns: herd of buffalo, flock of sheep/chickens, pack of wolves, tower of giraffes, leap of leopards, crash of rhinos, school of fish, litter of puppies, sloth of bears, colony of beavers, troop of kangaroos, pride of lions, drift of swans, brood of chickens, gam of whales, parcel of penguins, and pod of dolphins

- Elephant Shapes worksheet

Materials: Elephant Shapes worksheet, red, green, and blue crayons

Directions: Color the circles red, the squares green, and the triangles blue.

- Cooking Banana pancakes

Bananas are a favorite fruit in Bali. There are hundreds of kinds of bananas. They range from small pinkie-sized gold bananas to bananas that are 18 inches long and are dark green.

Materials: 1-cup all-purpose flour, 1 egg lightly beaten, $\frac{1}{4}$ t salt, 1 cup milk, 4 T butter, 4 bananas, sugar, shallow non-stick pan, stove, bowl, spoon, spatula, paper plates, napkins

Optional: lemon wedges, ice cream

Directions:

1. Mix flour, egg, milk, and salt, gently but thoroughly.
2. Heat a shallow non-stick pan and add 1 T of butter.
3. Slice 1 banana lengthwise and place in pan.
4. Cook banana about 3 minutes until it caramelizes.
5. Pour $\frac{1}{4}$ of batter over banana pieces evenly, tilting the pan if necessary.
6. Cook pancake over medium heat until top looks dry.
7. Turn pancake with a spatula and continue to cook a few more minutes.
8. Repeat the process 3 more times with remaining batter, bananas, and butter.
9. Sprinkle with sugar.
10. Optional: Serve with lemon wedges and ice cream.

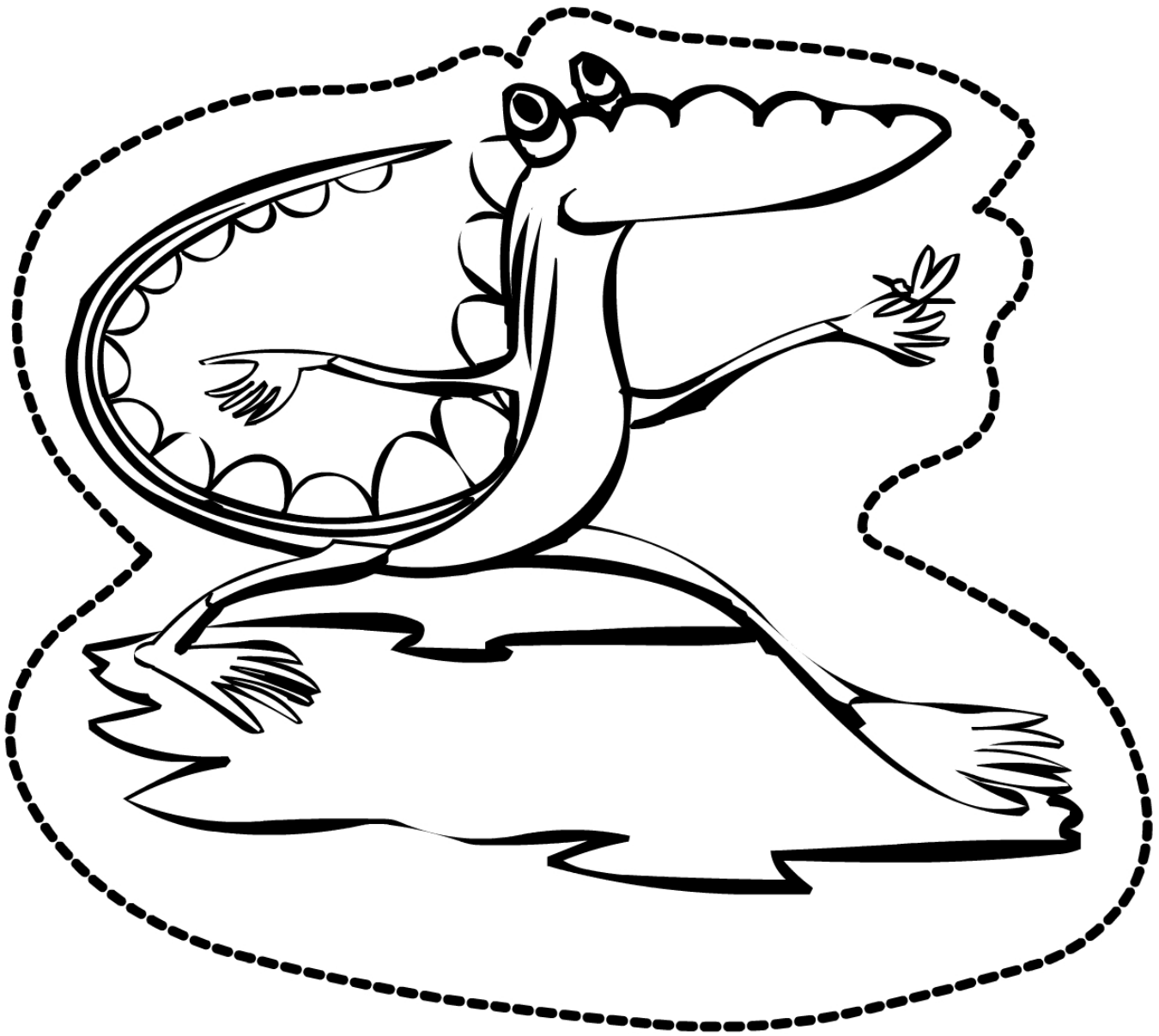
- Read “Old Dog and Coyote,” page 129, Wisdom Tales from Around the World (Heather Forest, August House, 1996). This tale from Mexico highlights the themes of interdependence and cooperation between animals. Compare and contrast the details of this story and the story’s lesson with Go to Sleep, Gecko!

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Name _____ Date _____

Color in the Gecko



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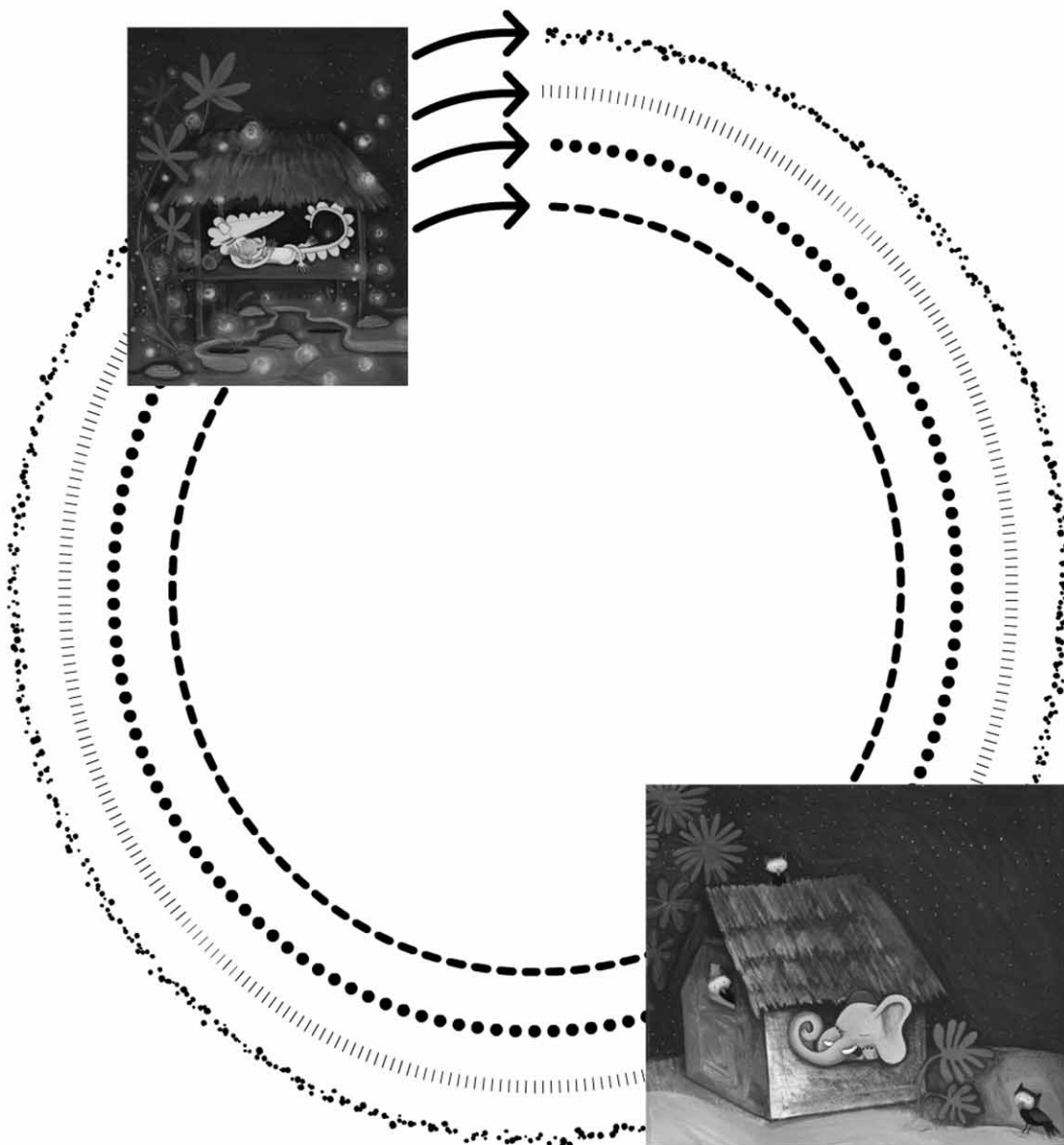
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Name _____ Date _____

Trace Gecko's Path

Directions:

1. Trace the path from *Gecko's house* to *Elephant's house* with a green crayon.
2. Trace the path from *Elephant's house* to *Gecko's house* with a red crayon.



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Name _____ Date _____

Elephant Shapes

Color ○ red □ green △ blue

