

Africa Play

***FOLLOW  
THE TALKING  
DRUM***

***Mrs. Kernkamp's Class***

***May 11, 2010***

Colin: Welcome to our class play.

Chase: The play was written by Mrs. Kernkamp and Mrs. Heineman.

Teegan: Some of the songs in our play were written by our music teacher Joseph Seserko.

Nathan: We are having the play videotaped. So please no flash photography.

Colin: After the show we will introduce ourselves and pose for photographs!

Teegan: Thanks for coming.

Chase: We hope you enjoy the performance.

## **♪ Entry song: Off To The Sweet Shores of Africa** **Africa Is Not a Country**

Reina: Africa is not a country. It is a vast continent made up of 53 nations.  
Thu-la-u-la part 1

Kiera: From Egypt and Morocco in the North to South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Botswana in the South, and all the countries in between.  
Thu-la-u-la part 2

Riley: If you took the land of the United States and added it to the lands of China, Japan, and Europe, Africa would still be bigger.  
Thu-la-u-la part 2

Eli: Unlike any other continent, Africa is divided into two almost equal lengths by the Equator.  
Thu-la-u-la part 2

Aidan R.: One tenth of Africa is rain forest.

Tyler: Four tenths are desert.

Katie: Four tenths are grasslands and farms.

Ayden Q.: The last tenth holds all the mountains and cities.

Mia: Wow! What a beautiful and diverse continent!

## ♪ Song: Thu-la-u-la

- Yanni: I just love studying about Africa! I wish I could go there!
- Reina: Me too! But it is so far away!
- Gage: Hey, what's that?
- Eli: Oh, that is just a package that was sent to our classroom.
- Tyler: I wonder what it is? Let's open it!
- Pierce: Wow! It looks like an African drum.
- Mia: There is a tag attached to it, I'll read it aloud! "This is a magical Talking Drum; please talk to an adult before playing!"
- Kai: We don't need an adult around. Let's just play the drum and see what happens.

*(Play the Talking Drum)*

- Ayden Q.: No way! I think it worked.
- Katie: I don't think we are in Monroe anymore.
- Gage: Did the African Talking Drum take us to Africa?
- Aidan R.: It looks like we are in the African Congo.
- Nathan: Yeah! The land is green and full of trees and plants because the Congo Basin gets a lot of rain.
- Pierce: Right! It is part of the Tropical Forest biome in Africa.
- Katie: That means we must be in a tropical rain forest.
- Kai: They weren't kidding when they said this was a magical drum.

## Tropical Forest Biome Section:

## Poem: The Distant Talking Drum

**Mia:** From deep in the rain forest  
The sound of a distant talking drum I hear-

**Riley:** Far away, far away.  
For me it calls.

**Katie:** Clearly it calls  
For me to dance,  
For men to dance,

**Mia:** For women to dance,  
For children to dance.

**Riley:** And the sound of the distant drum  
Echoes through the rain forest.

**Katie:** The distant talking drum  
Is calling across the mighty rain forest

**Mia:** For me to come,  
For me to dance.

**Riley:** Now the sound of sweet songs I hear.  
Beautifully they flow!

**Katie:** And the distant talking drum  
Is still calling  
Far away, far away.

**Mia:** Clearly it calls  
For me to come,  
For me to dance.

**Riley:** So across the rain forest,  
The wide, wild, and wonderful rain forest,  
I go!

Yanni: Oh, there are so many plants here. It is so green.

Kiera: The tropical forest is home to many different kinds of animals too.

Kai: There are so many animals in the different layers of the rain forest.

Mia: Some animals spend most of their time in the treetops, or forest canopy.

Eli: What is a forest canopy?

Riley: The canopy is when tall trees grow so close together that they form an umbrella of leaves.

Chase: That must be why the tropical forest seems so dark and dense.

Colin: Did you know that some animals live entirely in the tops of the trees in the forest like the parrot.

## **Poem: Mother Parrot's Advice to her Children**

**Kiera: Never get up till the sun gets up,  
Or the mists will give you a cold,**

**Chase: And a parrot whose lungs have once been  
touched, will never live to be old.**

**Nathan: Never eat plums that are not quite ripe,  
For perhaps they will give you a pain;**

**Teegan: And never dispute what the hornbill says,  
Or you'll never dispute again.**

**Kiera: Never despise the power of speech;  
Learn every word as it comes,**

**Chase: For this is the pride of the parrot race,  
That it speaks in a thousand tongues.**

**Nathan: Never stay up when the sun goes down,  
But sleep in your own home bed,**

**Teegan: And if you've been good, as a parrot should,  
You will dream that your tail is red.**

## ♪ Song: Woo-Woo-To

Nathan: Other African animals spend most of their time in the trees like gorillas and many different species of monkeys.

### **Poem: When You Talk to a Monkey**

**Mia: When you talk to a monkey  
He seems very wise.**

**Reina: He scratches his head,  
And he blinks his eyes;**

**Mia: But he won't say a word.  
He just swings on a vine**

**Reina: No, no, monkey,  
This fruit is mine!**

Eli: Other animals like to live on the forest floor, including people.

Kai: Yes, many African tribes prefer to live under the canopy of the tropical forests.

Tyler: I know a poem about the people making farms in the forests of Africa.

## Poem: Forest Farm Melody

**Riley:** Men, women, and children  
Go to their rain forest farms.

**Pierce:** They hoe to the rhythm of songs;  
They chant as they pull weeds.

**Colin:** They sing about crawling creatures  
In the deep, dark rain forest,

**Eli:** About babbling birds  
In the brilliant blue sky,

**Riley:** And monkeys tattling in the trees.

**Colin:** They sing songs to soothe  
The ears of man and beast-

**Pierce:** Songs to soothe the souls  
Working in the hot sun.

**Eli:** In green valleys their songs echo-  
That's melody in the rain forest.

Ayden Q.: Hey, watch where you step! It looks like the ground is moving.

Katie: The ground isn't moving, silly.

Chase: You're right! The leaves are moving!

Nathan: Actually, those leaves are being carried by army ants.

Yanni: Did you know that army ants live in colonies.

Colin: Yeah, there can be from ten thousand to several million ants in a colony.

Reina: That's a lot of ants moving through the forest together.

## **Poem: The Army Ants**

**Ayden Q.: Left**

**Gage: Right**

**Ayden Q.: Left**

**Gage: Right**

**Aiden R.: We're army ants.  
We swarm**

**Ayden Q.: We fight.  
We have no home.**

**Gage: We roam.  
We race.**

**Aiden R.: You're lucky if  
We miss your place.**

Pierce: Oh, I hope the ants don't start crawling on me.

Nathan: Me neither. Let's play the Talking Drum again and see where it takes us?

*(Play the Talking Drum)*

## **Desert Biome Section**

Gage: Hey, it worked again!

Aidan R.: Look at all the sand.

Riley: It's everywhere. We must be in a desert biome.

Teegan: Then we must be in the Sahara, just above the Congo Basin.

Tyler: What is the Sahara?

Yanni: Sahara is an Arabic word meaning desert.

Mia: So if you say Sahara Desert, you're repeating yourself!

Aiden Q.: Oh, I get it! That would be like saying desert, desert!

Kiera: Did you know that the Sahara almost completely covers North Africa?

Nathan: It also the world's largest and hottest desert.

Katie: The Sahara is about as big as the United States.

Gage: Wow that must be a really big desert!

Chase: There are also smaller deserts in Central and southern Africa.

Chase: In deserts, there is almost no rain, and the air is very dry.

Nathan: I heard that the hottest temperature ever recorded on Earth was in the Sahara.

Pierce: And it was a sizzling 136 degrees Fahrenheit!

Colin: Wow! That is really hot!

Reina: Are there any animals that can live in this hot of a place?

Riley: Yes! Remember learning about the Spade-Foot Toad.

## Poem: The Spade-Foot Toad

- Mia:** The Spade-Foot Toad lives underground  
And sits and waits, but makes no sound.
- Reina:** Above his head is burning sand-  
For ten long months that Toad is canned!
- Pierce:** He can't come out until it rains-  
The blazing sun would bake his brains.
- Mia:** He counts the days, he counts the hours,  
He waits for summer, with its showers,
- Reina:** And if- some day - all records broke  
And no rain came, that Toad would croak!

## ♪ Song: The Ways of Living Things

- Yanni:** Hey look, I see a camel.
- Gage:** I didn't realize they were so big.
- Eli:** The camel is one of the largest and strongest desert animals in Africa.
- Mia:** They can travel long distances across hot, dry deserts with little food or water.
- Katie:** They store fat on their backs in large humps.
- Kiera:** So that is how they are able to survive when food and water are scarce.
- Pierce:** It is also easy for them to walk across the hot sand.
- Mia:** No wonder they are such useful animals to the people who live in the desert.

Aiden Q.: Yeah, they can walk where no car or jeep can go.

Kai: And they can carry heavy loads to places where there are no roads.

Teegan: Look! There goes one now with a man riding on top between the two big humps on its back.

Aidan R.: That looks like fun.

Tyler: Hey, we know a poem about camels.

### **Poem: Camel**

**Eli: Drinking, drinking  
From the oasis,**

**Riley: Thirsty camels from distant places;  
Kneeling, kneeling**

**Colin: By the oasis,  
They rest and watch their tired faces.**

Riley: The poem talked about camels drinking at an oasis.

Aiden R.: What's an oasis?

Teegan: Oh, that is place where water comes up through the ground and is found in low places in the desert.

## Poem: Water Secret

**Kiera:** Everyone here, keeps a secret.  
Some sing for her.

**Katie:** Some sting for her.  
Some make her.

**Teegan:** Some take her.  
Some grow wide and round for her.

**Kiera:** Some grow deep and straight for her.  
Some dig a hole. Some wait for her.

**Katie:** But everyone here keeps a secret,  
A secret that helps them grow,

**Teegan:** A wet secret, a deep secret,  
A secret the sun must never know.

Gage: Hey guys, I am really hot let's get out of here!

Kai: Where should we go next?

Tyler: I don't care. Let's get the Talking Drum and see if it will take us out of this heat!

*(Play the Talking Drum)*

## Hieroglyphs

Yanni: Wow, where are we?

Eli: It looks like we are inside something.

Gage: We must be inside a pyramid.

- Colin: Look over there, I can see hieroglyphs.
- Katie: Wow, these are so cool. The Egyptians used pictures on the wall to tell a story.
- Nathan: Right, their alphabet was made up of different painted objects.
- Kiera: Look at that hieroglyph, it looks like a viper!

### **Poem: Viper**

- Yanni: Viper, viper  
Spiteful sniper,**
- Tyler: Snake in the grass, lowdown, base,  
Smiling, smiling to your face,**
- Kai: Virulent villain, venomous, vile,  
Darting poison with a snaky smile.**

### **♪ Song: The Snake Song**

### **Nile Valley**

- Pierce: So, if we are inside a pyramid we must be in Egypt.
- Mia: That's right! We are in the eastern desert area of Africa in the Nile valley.
- Teegan: We also learned that Egypt is home to Africa's oldest civilization.
- Riley: Ancient Egyptians built many of their pyramids near the Nile River.
- Katie: The Nile River provided water for the Egyptian people.

Aidan R.: The River was also used for transportation and trade.

Kai: Weren't the great pyramids built by the ancient Egyptians?

Gage: Yes, more than four thousand years ago.

Kiera: It took thousands of people to build the pyramids out of bricks made from mud and straw.

Aiden Q.: Remember learning about the Great Pyramid of King Khufu?

Reina: He was one of the great pharaohs who ruled the land and the Great Pyramid was built in his honor.

Pierce: And it is so large that it took over 20 years and over 100,000 people to build it.

Reina: Lets go outside!

Riley: Wow, what is that big statue over there? It looks a little like a lion but the head isn't right.

Mia: Oh, that is the Great Sphinx of Giza. It is actually a statue of a reclining lion's body with a human head.

Aidan R.: Now I see it! And the head looks like an Egyptian pharaoh.

Colin: Did you know that the Sphinx was built to guard the Pyramid of Khafre that stands behind the Sphinx.

Eli: That's because in Egypt you will usually find a sphinx built in front of religious temple or royal tomb.

Tyler: Wow, that's really cool!

Nathan: There are 138 pyramids discovered in Egypt. Most of them were built as tombs for the Pharaohs.

Katie: The best known Egyptian pyramids are in Giza.

Chase: Oh right, Giza is near Cairo. Those pyramids are some of the largest structures ever built in the world!

Tyler: Ok, I think we saw everything here! We haven't been to the African Savannah yet.

Kai: Oh, let's go! I want to see elephants and giraffes.

Yanni: Me too! Someone play the Talking Drum!

*(Play the Talking Drum)*

## **African Savannah/grasslands:**

Eli: Wow! Now we're in the grasslands of Eastern Africa!

Mia: Didn't we learn in class that the African savannah is the largest remaining natural grasslands in the world?

Riley: Yeah, we did, but I didn't know it would be so windy here.

Ayden Q.: Everywhere we look it is flat and wide open.

Teegan: Hey, look! What are those people doing over there?

Chase: It looks like they are herding cattle.

Reina: Here's a fun fact. Lots of cattle-herding people live in Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya.

Kiera: Let's go on a Safari to see all the grasslands animals.

## Poem: The Magnificent

**Eli:** Wander in herds to follow the rains,

**Pierce:** Grazing on the sweet, sweet grass,

**Riley:** That grows on the Serengeti plains.

Nathan: Let's all climb into these Jeeps and get started.

Kai: I am so excited! I have always wanted to go on an African Safari.

Ayden Q.: The African savanna is home to many fierce hunters, including the big cats.

Chase: Oh yeah! The most famous African cats are the lion, leopard, and cheetah.

Yanni: Look around everybody, I really want see one!

Pierce: Did you know that cheetahs are the fastest animals on land.

Colin: I read that they can run speeds up to 75 miles per hour!

Reina: Wow! I wish I could run that fast!

## ♪ Song: We are Ferocious Cheetahs

Katie: Did you know that lions live in groups called prides.

Aidan Q.: That's right, and leopards prefer to live alone.

Teegan: You can find them lying in trees!

Aiden R.: Look! I see a leopard in that tree over there.

## Poem: Leopards

**Reina: While monkeys nod  
And birds are still,**

**Teegan: Hushed the forest,  
Hushed the hill,**

**Reina: A leap of leopards  
Princely prowls,**

**Teegan: Hunting where  
The jackal howls.**

Pierce: I'm so excited to see the African elephants.

Mia: Me, too. Did you know that the African elephants are even bigger than the elephants from India?

Teegan: Actually, the easiest way to tell them apart is by looking at their tusks and ears.

Kai: The African elephant has much larger ears and tusks than the Indian elephant.

Chase: Did you know that elephant' tusks are made of ivory?

Nathan: Yeah, I did! But did you know that the elephant uses its tusks for digging up roots?

Ayden Q.: And they use their trunk to pull leaves and fruit from bushes and trees.

Kiera: Look over there. I see some elephants right now.

Tyler: Wow. They're enormous.

Riley: Yeah, they weigh around 12,000 pounds.

Kai: Good thing we are safe in the Land Rover so that we don't get stepped on.

## **Poem: The Elephant**

**Chase: The elephant is quite a beast,  
He' rather large to say the least,**

**Nathan: And though his size is most impressive  
The elephant is not aggressive,**

**Chase: He never throws his weight around,  
Still he always holds his ground.**

**Nathan: He only wants to feel secure,  
Long may the elephant endure!**

## **♪ Song: Today I Shall Powder My Elephant's Ear**

Colin: Is that another elephant over there in the water?

Eli: No silly, that's a hippopotamus!

Gage: Oh right! Now I see.

Kiera: They live in rivers throughout Africa.

Chase: Their eyes are located near the top of their head so they can see when they are almost completely underwater.

Yanni: That's cool!

Nathan: The hippo eats aquatic plants while underwater too.

Pierce: But at night, they go ashore and eat lots of grass.

Eli: They look so nice. I wish I could pet one!

Kiera: I don't think that is such a good idea, hippos can be very dangerous!

Reina: Yeah, let's not get too close!

## **Poem: Recipe for A Hippopotamus Sandwich**

*(choral- break into 4 parts)*

**Kai: A hippo sandwich is easy to make.**

**Katie: a All you do is simply take  
One slice of bread,**

**Aidan R.: b One slice of cake,**

**Tyler: c Some mayonnaise,**

**Kai: d One onion ring,**

**Katie: a One hippopotamus,**

**Aidan R.: b One piece of string,**

**Tyler: c A dash of pepper (*throw over head*)**

**Kai: d That ought to do it.  
And now comes the problem. . .**

**All: Biting into it!**

Tyler: I know another poem about the Hippo.

## Poem: Hippopotamus

**Mia:**           **The Hippopotamus - Hippo for short -  
Is so lazy it is sad to report.**

**Pierce:**       **He wallows for hours up to his eyes  
In mud while tropical Butterflies**

**Riley:**       **Flicker above him through the skies,  
While Peacocks scream and Apes cavort.**

**Mia:**           **Black water trickles down from his ears,  
Around his head the blue mist clears;**

**Pierce:**       **He lifts his broad back, shakes off flies,**

**Riley:**       **Opens his pink mouth, blinks his eyes,  
Then sinks back under, and disappears.**

Tyler:           Did you notice how dirty the hippos were?

Colin:           Remember when we learned in class that they put mud  
on their bodies to keep cool.

Gage:           Yeah, and the elephants and rhinoceros do that too.

Reina:          Hey, look over there! I see two huge, muddy rhinos.

Katie:          They must be really hot because they are covered in  
mud.

## Poem: Rhinoceros

**Ayden Q.: When the rhinoceros  
Feeling nasty**

**Gage: Turns and runs  
Slowly and faster**

**Yanni: Like a rolling  
Boulder after his foe**

**Ayden Q.: And butts him with  
The thick spike  
On his nose,**

**Gage: It's no help to know  
That his hard horn  
Is only made of hair,**

**Yanni: likeThe flared mane  
Of a lion**

**Ayden Q.: Or the horse's  
Airy tail  
That flicks and flows.**

Chase: Look. I see some trees over there.

Yanni: Oh, maybe we will see some giraffes!

Colin : Don't they eat the leaves from the tallest trees?

Eli: Yes! In fact, they are vegetarians.

Mia: Did you know that giraffes have to eat leaves from treetops because is difficult for them to touch the ground with their mouths.

Katie: That is really interesting!

- Riley: I learned that they have to spread their legs very wide to allow them to lower their head and drink water.
- Reina: They have to be careful around water because giraffes are one of the only mammals that cannot swim.
- Aidan R.: They are also the tallest animal on earth.
- Kai: Did you know that male giraffes can be up to 18 feet tall!
- Eli: And their legs can be six feet long!
- Colin: Yes! And what is really cool is that their necks can be 13 feet long!
- Pierce: Giraffes are very interesting animals!

## **Poem: Giraffes**

- Eli: Giraffes  
I like them.  
Ask me why.**
- Gage: Because they hold their heads up high  
Because their necks stretch to the sky.**
- Pierce: Because they're quiet, calm, and shy.  
Because they run so fast they fly,**
- Eli: Because their eyes are velvet brown.  
Because their coats are spotted tan.**
- Pierce: Because they eat the tops of trees.  
Because their legs have knobby knees.**
- Gage: Because  
Because  
Because.  
That's why I like giraffes.**

Aiden R.: Look at that herd of wild horses.

Tyler: Those aren't horses, silly. Those are zebras.

Riley: They really do look like horses, but they have a short main and big, tall ears.

Kiera: They are also covered with dark brown or black and white stripes.

Reina: Did you know that zebras are very difficult to tame!

Mia: Well that's too bad! I was going to ask my mom if I could have one for me birthday. I will just have to think of something else!

## **Poem: Zebra Question**

**Ayden Q.: I asked the zebra,  
Are you black with white stripes?**

**Kai: Or white with black stripes?  
And the zebra asked me,**

**Katie: Are you good with bad habits?  
Or are you bad with good habits?**

**Tyler: Are you noisy with quiet times?  
Or are you quiet with noisy times?**

**Ayden Q.: Are you happy with some sad days?  
Or are you sad with some happy days?**

**Kai: Are you neat with some slopy ways?  
Or are you sloppy with some neat ways?**

**Katie: And on and on and on and on  
And on and on he went.**

**Tyler: I'll never ask a zebra  
About stripes again.**

Teegan: Hey! Look over there! What is that?

Gage: That's a meerkat.

Chase: We know a poem about meerkats.

## **Poem: The Meerkats of Africa**

**Yanni: Meerkats go about in packs  
They don't hang loose-**

**Aidan R.: They're not really cats at all,  
But more a mongoose.**

**Pierce: They have great capabilities,  
Make no mistake,**

**Yanni: A Meerkat can kill a scorpion  
Or even a snake.**

**Aidan R.: They rescue each other's children  
And have lookouts when they're feeding**

**Pierce: And a system of babysitters-  
The kind of co-operation  
That the human race is needing!**

## **♪ Song: The Lion Sleeps Tonight**

Mia: Look, over there, what's that?

Colin: That's a lioness and her cub.

Riley: Oh, the cub is so cute. I want to go pet it.

Nathan: You can't do that. Didn't you know that the lioness is very protective of her cub, and she might hurt us if we get too close.

Reina: Oh, that sounds like my mom. She is really protective of me too. Just like the lioness. I guess I have more in common with a lion cub than I thought.

Chase: Hey, it looks like the sun is starting to go down. It will be dark soon.

Aiden Q.: Let's get out of here. The lions should be hunting soon.

Yanni: I hope he really is sleeping.

Gage: Me too!

Kiera: Where is the Talking Drum?

Yanni: I have it!

Katie: Shhhhhh. Play it quietly and let's get out of here!

*(Play the Talking Drum)*

## **Nile River Section:**

Nathan: Where are we?

Eli: We must be in the Nile River Delta because there's a lot more than just hippos here.

Tyler: Yeah, look at all the birds!

Pierce: I even see a Heron over there. I know that it's a Heron because it is standing on one leg!

## Poem: The Heron

- Eli:** The heron stands in water where the swamp  
Has deepened to the blackness of a pool.
- Riley:** Or balances with one leg on a hump  
Of marsh grass heaped above a muskrat hole.
- Mia:** He walks the shallow with an antic grace.  
The great feet break the ridges of the sand.
- Eli:** The long eye notes the minnow's hiding place,  
His beak is quicker than a human hand.
- Riley:** He jerks a frog across his bony lip.  
Then points his heavy bill above the wood.
- Mia:** The wide wings flap but once to lift him up,  
A single ripple starts from where he stood

Teegan: The wetlands are home to many insects too. And the mosquitoes are really thick right now. (*swatting*)

## Poem: Mosquito, Mosquito

- Kiera:** Mosquitoes, mosquitoes,  
Stop torturing me,
- Chase:** Why can't you behave  
More considerately,
- Nathan:** You've bitten me practically  
Down to the bone,
- Colin:** Mosquitoes, mosquitoes,  
Please leave me alone!
- Kiera:** Mosquitoes, mosquitoes,  
You're hard to ignore,
- Chase:** I itch and I scratch,  
I can't stand anymore,
- Nathan:** You've bitten my bottom,  
You've bitten my top,
- Colin:** Mosquitoes, mosquitoes,  
I'm begging you, stop!
- Kiera:** Mosquitoes, mosquitoes,  
I honestly feel
- Chase:** It's time that you went  
Somewhere else for a meal,
- Nathan:** You've bitten me places  
I can't even see,
- Colin:** Mosquitoes, mosquitoes,  
Stop torturing me!

Aidan R.: Hey, is that a dragonfly over there?

Colin: Oh it is! That's great because the dragonfly will eat the mosquitoes so they will stop biting us!

## **Poem: The Dragonfly**

**Reina: I am the dragon,  
The demon of skies.**

**Riley: Behold my bold  
Enormous eyes.**

**Teegan: I sweep  
I swoop  
I terrorize**

**Reina: For lunch I munch  
On flies and bees.**

**Riley: Mosquitoes with  
My feet I seize.**

**Teegan: I am the dragon:  
Down on your knees!**

Yanni: Let's get away from all of these insects.

Chase: Maybe we should see if the Talking Drum will take us to the African mountain biome because I want to get out of the wetlands.

Teegan: Quick, play the Talking Drum!

*(Play the Talking Drum)*

## **Mountain Biome Section:**

Katie: Wow! Look at how huge these mountains are.

Gage: Where in Africa are we?

Pierce: We are in the Atlas Mountains.

Aiden Q.: At the northern edge of the Sahara in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

Mia: Did you know that there are only a few mountain ranges in Africa?

Nathan: The longest mountain range in Africa is the Atlas Mountains.

Kai: It is nearly 1,500 miles long.

Aidan R.: Wow! That's long!

Teegan: Are there volcanoes in the Atlas Mountain range?

Eli: Yes! In fact, Africa's highest mountain peaks are all volcanic.

Riley: That reminds me of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Kiera: Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's tallest mountain and it is a dormant volcano.

Reina: What does dormant mean?

Mia: Dormant means that it is not active.

Aidan R.: You know; like it's sleeping.

Tyler: Oh, look. There it is!

Katie: Wow! That looks like snow on top.

Colin: It is snow! Actually, Mount Kilimanjaro is always covered with snow.

Nathan: Hey, do you remember that cool song we learned about Mount Kilimanjaro in school?

Eli: Yes! Let's sing it together.

## ♪ **Song: Mount Kilimanjaro**

Pierce: Well, we saw a lot in the mountain biome! Let's go somewhere else now.

Yanni: But where should we go?

Tyler: Let's go to the Horn of Africa!

Kai: Ok! I'll play the Talking Drum!

*(Play the Talking Drum)*

## **Horn of Africa Section:**

Reina: Well, here we are! That is a really cool drum!

Riley: Did you know that the Horn has a hot and arid climate, even though it's close to the equator.

Kiera: The Horn of Africa consists mainly of mountains.

Chase: Two of the four countries that make up the Horn of Africa are Ethiopia and Somalia.

Gage: There are lots of farms in these countries.

Eli: Somalia farms bananas and cattle.

Mia: Ethiopia grows coffee to export to other countries.

Teegan: Some of the fastest long distance runners in the world are also from Ethiopia.

Kiera: Including the first female gold medalist winner Derartu Tulu.

Pierce: In the Horn of Africa, many animals have gone extinct.

Ayden Q.: Only five percent of its original habitants remain.

Reina: Still it has more endemic reptiles than any other region in Africa.

Kai: It has over 285 reptile species, including the crocodile.

Riley: The crocodile is the largest of all the living reptiles.

Tyler: Watch out for crocodiles!

## **Poem: How Doth the Little Crocodile**

**Chase: How doth the little crocodile  
Improve his shining tail,**

**Nathan: And pour the waters of the Nile  
On every golden scale!**

**Chase: How cheerfully he seems to grin,  
How neatly spreads his claws,**

**Nathan: And welcomes little fishes in,  
With greatly smiling jaws!**

Chase: The Horn of Africa borders the Arabian Sea.

Katie: Hey lets go check out the creatures of the sea.

## Poem: The Sea

**Reina:** Behold the wonders of the mighty deep,  
Where crabs and lobsters learn to creep,

**Kiera:** and little fishes learn to swim,  
And clumsy sailors tumble in.

**Aiden Q.:** There is so much to see here. I hope we don't  
come to close to a shark?

## Poem: The Shark

**Kiera:** My dear, let me tell you about the shark.  
Though his eyes are bright, his thought is dark.

**Chase:** He's quiet- that speaks well of him.  
So does the fact that he can swim.

**Nathan:** But though he swims without a sound,  
Wherever he swims he looks around

**Kiera:** With those two bright eyes and that one dark  
thought.  
He has only one but he thinks it a lot.

**Chase:** And the thought he thinks but can never complete  
Is his long dark thought of something to eat.

**Nathan:** Most anything does. And I have to add  
That when he eats, his manners are bad.

**Kiera:** He's a gulper, a ripper, a snatcher, a grabber.  
Yes, His manners are drab. But his thought is  
drabber.

**Chase:** That one dark thought he can never complete  
Of something—anything-somehow to eat.

**Nathan:** Be careful where you swim, my sweet.

Gage: Wow, look at all of those fish!  
Aidan R.: Where, I don't see any?  
Katie: Look down into the water. They are swimming all around!

## Poem: Fish

Yanni: Look at them flit  
Lickety-slit

Tyler: Wiggling, Swiggling  
Swerving, Curving

Aidan R.: Hurrying, Scurrying  
Chasing, Racing

Yanni: Whizzing, Whisking  
Flying, Frisking

Tyler: Tearing around with a leap and a bound

Aidan R.: But none of them making the  
**Tiniest, tiniest, tiniest, tiniest, sound.**

Mia: I want to go to one more place before we go home.

Pierce: I wonder if we can get the Talking Drum to take us to South Africa.

Tyler: Get the Talking Drum.

*(Play the Talking Drum)*

Yanni: Look! Those must be the Zulu people of South Africa.

Ayden Q.: Yeah, I heard they are great story tellers.

Kiera: You're right, and many of their stories are about African animals.

Kai: Remember in art, when Mrs. Noel had us draw African houses.

Eli: The Zulu people used to live in the cone shaped houses.

Teegan: Made of finely mated reeds and straw.

Reina: They also make up the largest language group in South Africa.

Riley: Sadly they have suffered much discrimination throughout history.

Colin: That must mean that Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu are from South Africa.

Kiera: Yes, it took a lot of courage for them to fight for equal rights for their people.

Chse: Africa seems to inspire courage - not only those two Nobel Peace Prize winners,

Nathan: But also Jane Goodall, Dr David Livingston, and all the explorers, medical people,

Teegan: And freedom fighters that tried and are *still* trying to help Africans today.

## ♪ Song: Courage

Pierce: Hey, do you think our teacher is missing us?

Eli: She's probably worried about us.

Riley: How are we going to get back to the classroom?

Nathan: I have an idea! Let's play the Talking Drum and hope it can take us home.

*(Play the Talking Drum)*

## ♪ **Song: Away from the Sweet Shores of Africa**

Kai: Hey, we're home! It worked!

Katie: Yeah, what a great trip!

Chase: We got to see a lot of plants, animals, and people of Africa!

Reina: We have so much to tell our teacher.

Mia: I know I will be talking about our African adventure for a long time.

## ♪ **Song: Night Song**

*Children bow and sit down. Introduce themselves to the audience and tell their age.*