

Africa Play

***FOLLOW
THE
TALKING
DRUM***

Andrew: Welcome to our class play.

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

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

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

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

Jason: Thanks for coming.

Johnny: We hope you enjoy the performance.

♪ Entry song: Off To the Sweet Shores of Africa

Africa Is Not a Country Section:

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

Sunniva: 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

Tristen: 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

Emerson: Unlike any other continent, Africa is divided into two almost equal lengths by the Equator.

Thu-la-u-la part 2

Molly: One tenth of Africa is rain forest.

Grady: Four tenths are desert.

Paige: Four tenths are grasslands and farms.

Max: The last tenth holds all the mountains and cities.

Andrew: Wow! What a beautiful and diverse continent!

♪ **Song: Thu-la-u-la**

Sunniva: I just love studying about Africa! I wish I could go there!

Hannah: Me too! But it is so far away!

Jason: Hey, what's that?

Dianna: Oh, that is just a package that was sent to our classroom.

Emerson: What is it? Let's open it!

Cuinn: Wow! It looks like an African drum.

Tristen: 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!"

Dylan: We don't need an adult around. Let's just play the drum and see what happens.

(Play the Talking Drum)

Claire: No way! I think it worked.

Grady: I don't think we are in Monroe anymore.

Max: Did the African Talking Drum take us to Africa?

Molly: It looks like we are in the African Congo.

Johnny: Yeah! The land is green and full of trees and plants because the Congo Basin gets a lot of rain.

Dylan: Right! It is part of the Tropical Forest biome in Africa.

Paige: That means we must be in a tropical rain forest.

Hannah: They weren't kidding when they said this was a magical drum.

Tropical Forest Biome Section:

Poem: The Distant Talking Drum

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grady: What is a forest canopy?

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

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

Tristen: 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

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

Emerson: And a parrot whose lungs have once been
touched,
Will never live to be old.

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

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

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

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

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

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

♪ Song: Woo-Woo-To

Sunniva: 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

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

Molly: He scratches his head,
And he blinks his eyes;

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

Molly: No, no, monkey,
This fruit is mine!

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

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

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

Poem: Forest Farm Melody

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

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

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

Sunniva: About babbling birds
In the brilliant blue sky,

Cuinn: And monkeys tattling in the trees.

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

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

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

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

Emerson: The ground isn't moving, silly.

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

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

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

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

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

Poem: The Army Ants

Max: Left

Paige: Right

Grady: Left

Claire: Right

**Max: We're army ants.
We swarm.**

Paige: **We fight.**
 We have no home.

Grady: **We roam.**
 We race.

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

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

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

(Play the Talking Drum)

Desert Biome Section:

Dianna: Hey, it worked again!

Grady: Look at all the sand.

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

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

Molly: What is the Sahara?

Jason: Sahara is an Arabic word meaning desert.

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

Emerson: Oh, I get it! That would be like saying desert, desert!

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

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

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

Max: Wow! That's a really big desert!

Jason: There are also smaller deserts in central and southern Africa.

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

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

Tristen: And it was a sizzling 136 degrees Fahrenheit!

Paige: Wow! That is really hot!

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

Hannah: Yes! Remember learning about the spade-foot toad.

Poem: The Spade-Foot Toad

**Tristen: The Spade-Foot Toad lives underground
And sits and waits, but makes no sound.**

**Dylan: Above his head is burning sand-
For ten long months that Toad is canned!**

**Tristen: He can't come out until it rains-
The blazing sun would bake his brains.**

**Dylan: He counts the days, he counts the hours,
He waits for summer, with its showers,**

**Tristen: And if- some day - all records broke
And no rain came, that Toad would croak!**

♪ Song: The Ways of Living Things

- Sunniva: Hey look, I see a camel.
- Grady: I didn't realize they were so big.
- Johnny: The camel is one of the largest and strongest desert animals in Africa.
- Dylan: They can travel long distances across hot, dry deserts with little food or water.
- Claire: They store fat on their backs in large humps.
- Hannah: So that is how they are able to survive when food and water are scarce.
- Emerson: It is also easy for them to walk across the hot sand.
- Cuinn: No wonder they are such useful animals to the people who live in the desert.
- Max: Yeah, they can walk where no car or jeep can go.
- Dianna: And they can carry heavy loads to places where there are no roads.
- Andrew: Look! There goes one now with a man riding on top between the two big humps on its back.
- Molly: That looks like fun.
- Paige: Hey, we know a poem about camels.

Poem: Camel

**Emerson: Drinking, drinking
From the oasis,
Thirsty camels from distant places;**

**Johnny: Kneeling, kneeling
By the oasis,
They rest and watch their tired faces.**

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

Grady: What's an oasis?

Johnny: Oh, that's where water comes up through the ground and is found in low places in the desert.

Poem: Water Secret

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Claire: Where should we go next?

Andrew: 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)

Nile Valley Section:

Hannah: Wow, where are we?

Emerson: It looks like we are inside something.

Max: We must be inside a pyramid.

Dianna: Look over there, I can see hieroglyphs.

Sunniva: Wow, these are so cool. The Egyptians used pictures on the wall to tell a story.

Paige: And their alphabet was made up of different painted objects.

Tristen: See that that hieroglyph over there? It looks like a viper!

Poem: Viper

**Max: Viper, viper
Spiteful sniper,**

**Cuinn: Snake in the grass, lowdown, base,
Smiling, smiling to your face,**

**Andrew: Virulent villain, venomous, vile,
Darting poison with a snaky smile.**

♪ Song: The Snake Song

- Johnny: So, if we are inside a pyramid we must be in Egypt.
- Jason: That's right! We are in the eastern desert area of Africa in the Nile valley.
- Cuinn: We also learned that Egypt is home to Africa's oldest civilization.
- Dianna: Ancient Egyptians built many of their pyramids near the Nile River.
- Max: The Nile River provided water for the Egyptian people.
- Claire: The River was also used for transportation and trade.
- Emerson: Weren't the great pyramids built by the ancient Egyptians?
- Grady: Yes, more than four thousand years ago.
- Dylan: It took thousands of people to build the pyramids out of bricks made from mud and straw.
- Hannah: Remember learning about the Great Pyramid of King Khufu?
- Sunniva: He was one of the great pharaohs who ruled the land and the Great Pyramid was built in his honor.
- Cuinn: And it is so large that it took over 20 years and over 100,000 people to build it.
- Paige: Let's go outside!
- Molly: Wow, what is that big statue over there? It looks a little like a lion but the head isn't right.

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

Johnny: Now I see it! The head looks like an Egyptian pharaoh!

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

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

Grady: Wow, that's really cool!

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

Dylan: The best known Egyptian pyramids are in Giza.

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

Dylan: Hey guys, is anyone feeling hot? Is there anywhere nearby that we can go to cool off?

Tristen: Let's go explore the Nile River.

Emerson: I bet the Talking Drum will take us there.

Cuinn: Quick! Play the drum.

(Play the Talking Drum)

Nile River Section:

Cuinn: Hey, there's the River.

Max: We must be in the Nile River Delta now. Look at all the birds.

Paige: Wow. There are thousands of them!

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

Poem: The Heron

**Tristen: The heron stands in water where the swamp
Has deepened to the blackness of a pool.**

**Dylan: Or balances with one leg on a hump
Of marsh grass heaped above a muskrat hole.**

**Sunniva: He walks the shallow with an antic grace.
The great feet break the ridges of the sand.**

**Tristen: The long eye notes the minnow's hiding place,
His beak is quicker than a human hand.**

**Dylan: He jerks a frog across his bony lip.
Then points his heavy bill above the wood.**

**Sunniva: The wide wings flap but once to lift him up,
A single ripple starts from where he stood**

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

Poem: Mosquito, Mosquito

**Molly: Mosquitoes, mosquitoes,
Stop torturing me,**

**Jason: Why can't you behave
More considerately,**

Max: You've bitten me practically
Down to the bone,

Grady: Mosquitoes, mosquitoes,
Please leave me alone!

Paige: Mosquitoes, mosquitoes,
You're hard to ignore,

Claire: I itch and I scratch,
I can't stand anymore,

Molly: You've bitten my bottom,
You've bitten my top,

Jason: Mosquitoes, mosquitoes,
I'm begging you, stop!

Max: Mosquitoes, mosquitoes,
I honestly feel

Grady: It's time that you went
Somewhere else for a meal,

Paige: You've bitten me places
I can't even see,

Claire: Mosquitoes, mosquitoes,
Stop torturing me!

Hannah: Hey, is that a dragonfly over there?

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

Poem: The Dragonfly

Andrew: I am the dragon,
The demon of skies.

Johnny: Behold my bold
Enormous eyes.

Hannah: I sweep
I swoop
I terrorize

Andrew: For lunch I munch
On flies and bees.

Johnny: Mosquitoes with
My feet I seize.

Hannah: I am the dragon:
Down on your knees!

Jason: You know guys, we have seen a lot of things here, but we haven't been to the African Savannah yet.

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

Max: Me too! Someone play the Talking Drum!

(Play the Talking Drum)

African Savannah/grasslands Section:

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

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

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

Molly: Everywhere we look it is flat and wide open.

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

Paige: It looks like they are herding cattle.

Andrew: Actually, lots of cattle-herding people live in Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya.

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

Poem: The Magnificent

Dianna: Wander in herds to follow the rains,

Claire: Grazing on the sweet, sweet grass,

Dianna: That grows on the Serengeti plains.

Dylan: Hey look! There is a large safari jeep over there. The driver is calling us over.

Grady: Maybe he wants to take us on a safari.

Max: I'm so excited! I've always wanted to go on an African safari.

Emerson: He wants us to get in everyone! Let's go!

(Students simulate climbing into a jeep)

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

Cuinn: The most famous African cats are the lion, leopard, and cheetah.

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

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

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

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

♪ Song: We are Ferocious Cheetahs

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

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

Molly: You can find them lying in trees.

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

Poem: Leopards

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

**Grady: Hushed the forest,
Hushed the hill,**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grady: Did you know elephant tusks are made of ivory?

Andrew: I did know that! And did you know that the elephant uses its tusks for digging up roots?

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

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

Grady: Wow. They're enormous.

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

Hannah: Good thing we are safe in the safari jeep so that we don't get stepped on.

Poem: The Elephant

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

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

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

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

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

- Max: Is that another elephant in the water over there?
- Claire: No silly, that's a hippopotamus!
Max: Oh right! Now I see it.
- Claire: They live in rivers throughout Africa.
- Dianna: Their eyes are near the top of their head so they can see when almost completely underwater.
- Max: That's cool!
- Tristen: The hippo eats aquatic plants while underwater too.
- Emerson: But at night, they go ashore and eat lots of grass.
- Molly: They look so nice. I wish I could pet one!
- Sunniva: I don't think that's a good idea, hippos can be very dangerous!
- Jason: Yeah, let's not get too close!

Poem: Recipe for A Hippopotamus Sandwich

All: A hippo sandwich is easy to make.

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

Grady: One slice of cake,

Paige: Some mayonnaise,

Molly: One onion ring,

Jason: One hippopotamus,
Grady: One piece of string,
Paige: A dash of pepper (*throw over head*)
Molly: That ought to do it.
And now comes the problem. . .
All: Biting into it!

Cuinn: I know another poem about the Hippo.

Poem: Hippopotamus

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

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

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

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

Johnny: He lifts his broad back, shakes off flies,

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

Dylan: Did you notice how dirty the hippos were?

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

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

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

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

Poem: Rhinoceros

**Jason: When the rhinoceros
Feeling nasty**

**Hannah: Turns and runs
Slowly and faster**

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

**Jason: And butts him with
The thick spike
On his nose,**

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

**Dylan: Like the flared mane
Of a lion**

**Jason: Or the horse's airy tail
That flicks and flows.**

Sunniva: Look! I see some trees over there.

Paige: Oh, maybe we'll see some giraffes!

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

Dianna: Yes! In fact, they are vegetarians.

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

Johnny: That's really interesting!

Tristen: I learned that they have to spread their legs very wide to allow them to lower their head and drink water.

Emerson: They have to be careful around water because giraffes are one of the only mammals that cannot swim.

Grady: They are also the tallest animal on earth.

Cuinn: And did you know that male giraffes can be up to 18 feet tall?

Claire: And their legs can be six feet long!

Sunniva: And what's really cool is their necks can be 13 feet long!

Dylan: Giraffes are very interesting animals!

Poem: Giraffes

**Molly: Giraffes
I like them.
Ask me why.**

**Max: Because they hold their heads up high
Because their necks stretch to the sky.**

**Claire: Because they're quiet, calm, and shy.
Because they run so fast they fly,**

**Max: Because their eyes are velvet brown.
Because their coats are spotted tan.**

Claire: **Because they eat the tops of trees.
Because their legs have knobby knees.**

Molly: **Because
Because
Because.
That's why I like giraffes.**

Emerson: Look at that herd of black and white striped Horses!

Jason: Those are horses, they're zebras!

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

Hannah: Did you know that zebras are very difficult to tame?

Tristen: 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

Dianna: **I asked the zebras,
Are you black with white stripes?
Or white with black stripes?
And the zebras asked me,**

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

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

Andrew: **Are you happy with some sad days?
Or are you sad with some happy days?**

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

**Dianna: And on and on and on and on
And on and on they went.
I'll never ask zebras
About stripes again.**

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

Sunniva: That's a meerkat.

Johnny: We know a poem about meerkats.

Poem: The Meerkats of Africa

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

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

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

**Johnny: A meerkat can kill a scorpion
Or even a snake.**

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

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

♪ Song: The Lion Sleeps Tonight

Claire: Look over there, what's that?

Cuinn: That's a lioness and her cub.

Paige: Oh, the cub is so cute. I wish I could pet it.

Andrew: You can't do that. Didn't you know that the lioness is very protective of her cub? She might hurt us if we get too close.

Sunniva: 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.

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

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

Grady: I hope he really is sleeping.

Molly: Me too!

Hannah: Where is the Talking Drum?

Dianna: I have it!

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

(Play the Talking Drum)

Mountain Biome Section:

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

Grady: Where in Africa are we?

Cuinn: We are in the Atlas Mountains.

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

Dianna: Did you know that there are only a few mountain ranges

in Africa?

- Dylan: The longest mountain range in Africa is the Atlas Mountains.
- Tristen: It is nearly 1,500 miles long.
- Grady: Wow! That's long!
- Max: Are there volcanoes in the Atlas Mountain range?
- Andrew: Yes! In fact, Africa's highest mountain peaks are all volcanic.
- Cuinn: That reminds me of Mount Kilimanjaro.
- Emerson: Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's tallest mountain and it is a dormant volcano.
- Claire: What does dormant mean?
- Johnny: Dormant means that it is not active.
- Hannah: You know; like it's sleeping.
- Paige: Oh, look. There it is!
- Molly: Wow! That looks like snow on top.
- Jason: It is snow! Actually, Mount Kilimanjaro is always covered with snow.
- Dianna: Hey, do you remember that cool song we learned about Mount Kilimanjaro in school?
- Sunniva: Yes! Let's sing it together.

♪ Song: Mount Kilimanjaro

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

Max: But where should we go?

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

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

(Play the Talking Drum)

Horn of Africa Section:

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

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

Dylan: The Horn of Africa consists mainly of mountains.

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

Molly: I remember learning that there many farms in these countries.

Cuinn: Somalia farms bananas and cattle.

Paige: And Ethiopia grows coffee to export to other countries.

Tristen: Hey guys, did you also know that some of the fastest long distance runners in the world are also from Ethiopia, like the first female gold medalist winner Derartu Tulu.

Hannah: I also remember learning that in the Horn of Africa, many animals have gone extinct.

- Claire: Only five percent of its original habitants remain.
- Jason: And still it has more endemic reptiles than any other region in Africa.
- Max: The Horn also has over 285 reptile species, including the crocodile.
- Paige: Did you know the crocodile is the largest of all the living reptiles.
- Grady: Watch out for crocodiles!

Poem: How Doth the Little Crocodile

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

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

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

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

- Molly: Since the Horn of Africa borders the Arabian Sea, let's go check out the ocean creatures.

Poem: The Sea

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

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

Hannah: There is so much to see here, but I hope we don't get too close to a shark?

Poem: The Shark

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Max: Be careful where you swim, my sweet.

Grady: Wow, look at all of those fish!

Max: Where, I don't see any?

Jason: Look down into the water. They are swimming all around!

Poem: Fish

Jason: Look at them flit
Lickety-slit

Molly: Wiggling, Swiggling
Swerving, Curving

Claire: Hurrying, Scurrying
Chasing, Racing

Jason: Whizzing, Whisking
Flying, Frisking

Molly: Tearing around with a leap and a bound

Claire: But none of them making the
Tiniest, tiniest, tiniest, tiniest, sound.

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

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

Cuinn: Get the Talking Drum.

(Play the Talking Drum)

South Africa Section:

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

Johhny: Yeah, I heard they are great story tellers.

Max: And many of their stories are about African animals.

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

houses.

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

Grady: Made of finely mated reeds and straw.

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

Sunniva: Sadly they have suffered much discrimination throughout history.

Tristen: Remember learning that Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu are from South Africa.

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

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

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

Dianna: And freedom fighters that are *still* trying to help Africans today.

♪ **Song: Courage**

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

Molly: She's probably worried about us.

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

Tristen: 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**

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

Claire: Yeah, what a great trip!

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

Johnny: We have so much to tell our teacher.

Sunniva: 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.)