

Amazing Animals CD M014

Notes & Instructions

1. Dinosaurs

The fascination with dinosaurs continues...Kids love to act like dinosaurs. Namely, Stomping, which can be done in place if you don't have a lot of space, kind of like a slow, exaggerated march. Or stomping around the room, taking giant steps--more fun! Then they can chomp (like eating with their big mouths), then roar, growl, leap and sniff. Listen for the vocal cues. Some can even use all four limbs for variety. Maybe that's why we like dinosaurs,,,they seem larger than life and play to a child's imagination in its seemingly unlimited horizons. A great one to let enthusiasm run wild!

2. Bouncing Bongo

Choruses--Hands on heads with base of palm resting on the sides near top. Put your horns (hands) up, put your horns down and run around (or run in place)...as the lyrics go. Then bounce up and down, lifting heels off the ground (or without lifting heels). Verse 1--Mill around and graze, stand still, stick out your tails; Verse 2--Scouting around to make sure the coast is clear; Verse 3--Grunting & Mooing

3. The Brolga is a big Australian bird (crane) that's almost as tall as an average adult human and quite majestic. It also does a funny dance which can be seen on uTube here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCJVMINmtZg> . Our dance involves moving your body up & down. Using knees and upper body and head: Bend knees slightly and nod--down; Straighten legs and nod--up...in time with the music! Good for coordinating movements with rhythm. Kids can also flap their wings, show off their crowns and make the brolga sound--"garoo". Then they can face their friends, jump up & down and dance around. And throw back their heads, then bow.

4. Giant Weta

Pantomime--be like a Giant Weta. Roam around and show your long, flopping antenna, just like a Giant Weta--bent over with arms outstretched in front of you. Feel your way around. What can you feel? Move mouths without making a sound. Just walk, no hopping, no talking. Let's practice being quiet like a Giant Weta.

5. Giraffe

Arms up, then bending down to take a drink--try to touch your toes. Also, take a big step, then bend down and touch toes. "Undulate..." is swaying back & forth, with head leading (a la figure eight), shifting your weight from one foot (on the toes or balls of your feet) to the other.

6. Aye Aye

This tune about one of the world's most unusual animals turns into a seafaring adventure song. Learning to salute (the captain) is a big part. Sing the "Aye Aye"s and salute the captain! Develops sense of the world and it's exotic and different animals and locations. Also good for playing along with your percussion instruments.

7. Squid

Squishy, squishy... Listen and learn, start to think and blink. Open your eyes wide and sing "squishy, squishy." Talk about textures! What is squishy like? Maybe a sponge...pass it around. Sing Yo-o-o!

8. Cassowary

Left brain, right brain...left leg, right leg. Kick Out!, like a Cassowary, in time to the music. Kick out, starting with the right leg (on the word "out"--beat 1) and alternate legs (R-L-R-L etc.). This is easy and fun! (For those who feel like something more challenging, try this pattern: R Kick, Step, step, step, L kick... Step, step, step, R kick, L kick, step, step, step, step...) Great for coordinating movement with words and music.

9. Three Toed Sloth

Counting and coordination, plus making animal noises. Play your music sticks or clave's along with the music, especially while you count...Count to three, count back down. Count with fingers or barefoot, you can count three of your toes. Good for coordination of voice & hand with the music & counting. Now you've done it--cry "ahh-eee! Then make funny noises and faces.

10. Elephants

Walk around the room with arms extended down and hands clasped together...swaying your "trunks" and doing the "stomps" with your feet. A simply great action song that everyone can do. Perfect for a parade around the room!

11. Huhu Bugs & Witchetty Grubs

Crawling on their little stubs. Crawl around not making a sound. Try dimming the lights...Shhhh...

Kids will also delight singing "Huhu Bugs & Witchetty Grubs". Point for discussion: what happens to Huhu Bugs & Witchetty Grubs? They become beetles and moths (but only briefly; the vast majority of their lives are spent as grubs crawling and eating). Historically, they have also been a significant food source for Aborigines and Maoris.

12. Rattlesnake

Shake, shake, shake like a rattlesnake! Get your shakers out and shake, following the vocal cues in the song...Long shake at end of verses; Three short shakes, then one long shake pattern in the choruses. We're making music like a rattlesnake!