

More Life-Size Zoo

by Teruyuki Komiya

Stunning actual-size portraits of zoo animal favorites.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Which animal would you visit first if you went to the zoo?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if this lion’s fur is as soft as it looks?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations and ask questions. The name and age of each animal is listed along with close-up facts to study from the portrait and other miscellaneous facts. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *More Life-Size Zoo*

- pouch: a pocket of skin
- mane: hair on an animal’s neck
- impress: to please somebody
- lush: luxurious and full
- savanna: a flat grassland
- keen: sensitive and sharp
- stout: thick and heavy
- flexible: able to bend without breaking
- blubber: an insulating fat on ocean animals
- antennae: thin movable sensory organ found in pairs on the heads of some animals
- plod: walk heavily and slowly
- leisure: free time with no work
- devour: eat quickly
- humongous: extremely large

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How does a wolf communicate?
- Do gibbons have long or short arms?
- What is a baby kangaroo called?
- How do you know if a male lion is healthy and strong?
- Which is faster – a cheetah or a leopard?
- What other animal does a bison look like?
- What does a wombat do to keep his teeth filed down?
- Can a polar bear swim?
- What do the special antennae on top of a seal's head help the seal do?
- What do giant tortoises do all day?
- Why do hyena's have to eat quickly?
- What do orangutans have in common with humans?
- Can a bat fly? Do they have feathers?
- Only one other animal is larger than a hippopotamus. What is it?



Do

Guess the Animal!

Write down several "facts" about the animals from *More Life-Size Zoo* on index cards. Put the cards in a hat. Ask each child to draw a card from the hat. Read the fact on the card and ask the child to guess the animal.