

# Possum and the Peeper

by Anne Hunter

It's a fine spring day and a little tiny peeper is making sure all the animals are aware of it!



## 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, *Some animals are loud and make a lot of noise. Let's think of some animals and the sounds that they make.* 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 what the possum is saying to the bird?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. 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 *Possum and the Peeper*

- racket: noise
- inconsiderate: without thought for other people and their feelings
- catbird: a songbird with dark gray feathers and a black cap whose call sounds like the cry of a cat
- clamor: loud noise
- din: loud noise
- crest: the top part of something
- blurrily: blurry-eyed because of sleepiness
- marsh: soft wet ground
- peering: to look very carefully
- shoots: newly grown leaves or buds on a plant
- reeds: tall slender plants that grow in marshes
- squinting: to partly close your eyes so as to see better
- burrows: a tunnel dug as a living space by a small animal
- glorious: exceptionally lovely

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Were you surprised to learn that a little tiny frog was making all that loud noise?
- Peep isn't usually the sound we think of for a frog. How do you think a frog sounds?
- What noises do you hear in the mornings when you are waking up? At night when you are trying to fall asleep?
- Have any of you ever heard of a catbird?
- The muskrat and Possum look quite a bit alike. How are they the same? How are they different?
- Was the little peeper afraid of Possum and his friends?
- Why did little peeper want everyone to get up?
- Do you think the little peeper kept on making noise the rest of the day?

# Do

## Facts on Frogs

Have some fun learning about frogs! Here are just a few interesting facts:

- For some species of frogs, only the males sing.
- Large frogs have DEEP voices.
- Small frogs sing in high chirps.

Why do frogs sing? For a variety of reasons:

- to attract a mate
- to mark their territory
- because they know the weather is going to change
- because they are frightened or hurt

To hear a selection of frog calls, visit

<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/topics/frogCalls.html>. Another great resource is the book and CD called *The Calls of Frogs and Toads* by Lang Elliott.