

The Biggest Frog in Australia

by Susan L. Roth

Paper doll cutouts and whimsical and fast-paced text combine to retell an Australian folklore about a giant frog, his unquenchable thirst and the havoc it causes when he decides to drink all the water in the outback.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What is the biggest frog that you have ever seen?* 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 kind of seed the cat is planting?

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 *The Biggest Frog in Australia*

- billabongs: the Australian word for a branch of a river that flows away from the main stream
- outback: remote area in Australia
- bloated: swollen with liquid, gas or air
- eucalyptus: tall aromatic tree in Australia
- shriveled: to become shrunken or wrinkled
- wallaby grass: a long-leafed plant that grows in Australia
- flowering wattles: a name given by Australians to any acacia plant
- wombat: an Australian animal about the size of a badger
- parched: very thirsty, lacking water
- kookaburra: an Australian bird whose call sounds like laughter
- cackled: to laugh harshly and shrilly
- platypus: same as a duck-billed platypus
- dingo: an Australian wild dog
- ridiculous: unreasonable, completely silly
- echidna: an Australian animal with sharp spines and a long, skinny snout
- slipknot: movable knot, a knot undone by pulling
- guffawed: laugh loudly

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What was wrong with the frog?
- Where did he get all the water?
- What happened after the frog drank all the water?
- What kind of animals came to make him laugh?
- Why did they want to make him laugh?
- What did the kookaburra do? The kangaroo? The koala?
- What animal finally made the frog laugh? What did they do?
- What happened when the frog finally laughed?



Do

Construction Paper Art Mosaics

You will need: an assortment of construction paper and glue sticks

First the children will need to draw a picture of the biggest frog. After the children finish drawing the picture, they can rip the construction paper into smaller pieces and glue them on their drawing, in a mosaic pattern. They can use any color of construction paper and rip the pieces into any size or shape.