**SCIENCE RELATED**

**All Creatures Great and Small** – Folk songs and tales, information, slide show - Folklore is filled with a myriad of wonderful songs and tales reflecting the animal kingdom. Relating these to real life information provides an entertaining and useful exercise in comparing and contrasting fiction with non-fiction. Especially suited for k- gr 3.

Curriculum connection -Kick-off for 2nd, 3rd, or 4th grade students doing research project on an animal, researching animal facts & possibly another folk tale or song

Sample songs and tales: (\* indicates inclusion on video sampler, “All God’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir”)

* Song – “All God’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir,” with guitar
* Tall tale – Daniel Boone’s Split Dog, with balloon figure\*
* Folk song - “The Fox Went Out On a Chilly Night,” with banjo\*
* Tall Tale: “The Cajun Possum”
* Song: “I Wish I Was a Mole in the Ground” – students make verses about other animals
* Animal tale: “Anansi and the Pot of Beans”
* Song: “Mi casa es su casa/ My House is Your House,” with guitar (verses about anaconda, llama, and donkey)
* Trickster tale: “The Monkey and the Crocodile,” with balloon figure
* Folk song: “Bill Grogan’s Goat,” with guitar
* Picture book: *Beatrice’s Goat*, by Page McBrier – This true story about a Ugandan girl whose family receives a goat through Heifer International shows how the gift transforms their life.
* Song: “When I First Came to this Land,” with autoharp (verses include horse, cow and duck)

**Living With the Earth –** In this program Jon uses traditional folktales, a few songs and color slides to drive home the lessons of learning to live responsibly with the animals, plants and other resources of our planet.

**Curriculum connections:**

* Science curriculum/ ecology
* Kick-off of special ecology project

**Sample stories and songs:**

**Interdependence**

**Song – “We’re All a Family Under One Sky,”** – by Ruth Pelham. ”We’re people…we’re animals…we’re flowers…and birds in flight…” A call and response song, where kids can put together their own verses

**Folktale** – “**Mikku and the Trees”** – from Estonia - The trees convince Mikku not to cut them down because they are so important. They tell him, “You care for us, and we’ll care for you.”

**Song – “Garbage,”** by Pete Steele **–** We are filling the earth, sea, air and our minds with… garbage.

**Folktale – “Gluscabi and the Wind Eagle”** – Abenaki Indian – Gluscabi realizes he has made a mistake when he ties up the wings of Grandfather Wind in order to help him in hunting ducks.

**Folktale –** **“Gekko Cannot Sleep”** – In this Balinese tale about the interconnectedness of all things Gekko wants the chief to stop the firefly from flashing so that he can sleep. But he learns that the repercussions would be bad for many animals, including himself.

**Folk song with motions – “The Green Grass Grew All Around”** – cumulative song with call and response

**Folktale – “The Hidden Treasure”** – Aesop’s fable - A dying father tells his sons, who want to sell the vineyard he is leaving them, that there is a treasure buried somewhere on the property. As they turn over the earth in their search, they unintentionally prepare it for planting, so they decide to take advantage of the opportunity to grow grapes. After harvesting and selling the fruits of their labor, they realize that the land itself is the treasure.

**Nature Can Teach Us**

“**Solomon and the Bee”** – Aesop’s fable **-** When the Queen of Sheba cahllenges King Solomon to prove his wisdom by finding the one real flower among hundreds of perfect imitations, he opens a window and lets in a bee.

**Folktale – “The Tibetan Envoy”** – Through his keen knowledge animals and plants, the envoy is able to win the beautiful bride for his king.

**Song – “The Garden Song,”** by David Mallett - “Inch by inch and row by row, gonna make this garden grow/ All I need is a rake and hoe and a platch of fertile ground…”

**Folktale – “Grandfather Ape”** – from Indonesia - When a father abandons his newborn daughter because he wants a son, Grandfather Ape, who speaks and has special powers, adopts and raises her.

**Exploitation of Nature**

**Folk song – “Little Birdie”** – “Little birdie, little birdie, come and sing to me your song; I’ve a short time to be here with you and a long time to be gone.”

**Folktale “The Palace of Beaks” –** from Yemen - King Solomon wants to build a palace of the birds’ beaks for his wife’s birthday, but in answering three riddles from the hoopoe he realizes his selfish error.

**Song – “Black Waters,”** by Jean Ritchie – describes the devastation caused by strip mining of coal.

**Folktale – “The Magic Canoe –**  from Brazil - When a magic canoe brings him a boat full of fish, a greedy man loses everything by calling for more and more – until the angry canoe swallows him.

**True story – Sumatran Urangutan” –** Describes a typical day of a two year old with his mother, who teaches him various survival skills, then flees from the fires being set to clear land for growing palm oil, a practice that has killed over 90% of the species.

**Song – “Over In the Endangered Meadow**,” by Sally Rogers – The familiar early childhood song is set with new verses describing endangered animals.