

LITERATURE BASED ACTIVITY: (FOLK TALE)

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears by Verna Aardema, illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon

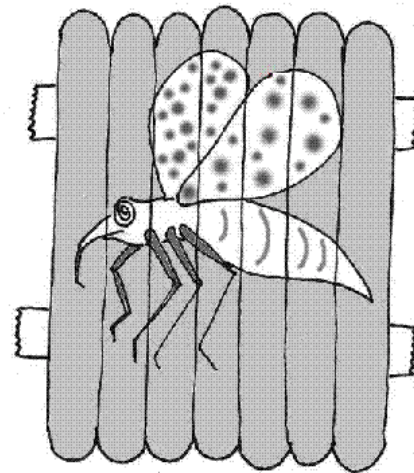
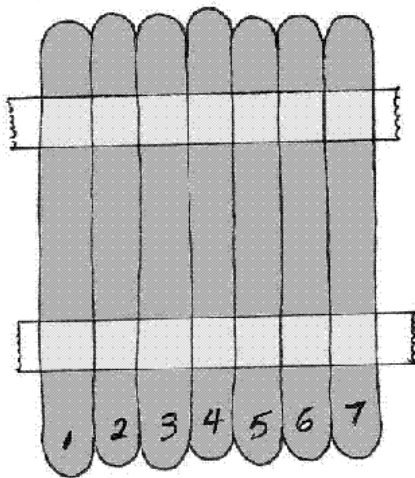
Why do mosquitoes buzz in people's ears? This funny question is answered in the familiar African folktale. A chain of misunderstandings among the animals is set off by a silly mosquito. This book won a Caldecott Award for the best illustrated book in 1975. The illustrations are very cool.

Drama: This story is a good one to act out. Assign actors for each of the animals in the story. Act out the plot. Think of costumes and props if you want.

Game: "The Mosquito Buzzed in my Ear...": Play this game like "Whisper Down the Lane". The student who starts is the mosquito. With the same words used by the mosquito in the story, the student who is the mosquito whispers (buzzes) to the next person, "You'll never believe what I saw yesterday"...and makes up something crazy (an octopus combing her hair in the girls' bathroom) ... and down the lane it goes. Use your imagination! What does mosquitoes's crazy sentence sound like when it gets to King Lion?

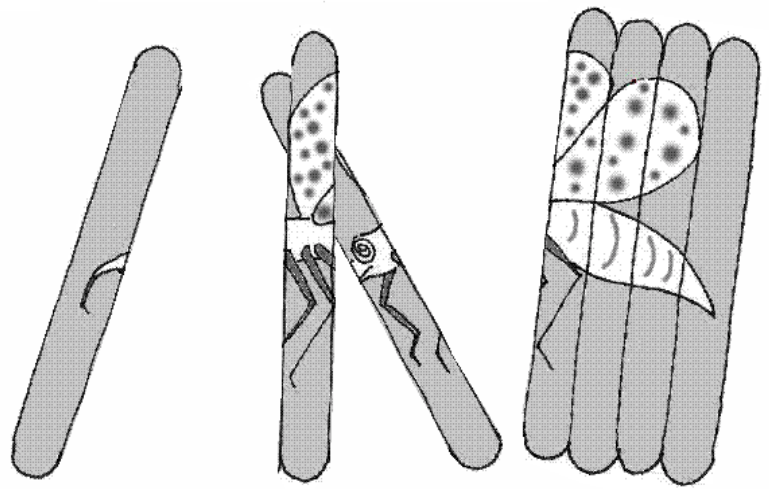
Craft: Popsicle stick puzzle: Supplies: 7 to 15 popsicle sticks per student / tape / markers, and/or paints or crayons

1. Tape 7 to 15 popsicle sticks close together. Number the sticks. Then flip the sticks over.



2. Draw the outline of one of the animals from the story on the sticks with a felt tip pen. Color the animals with colored markers poster paints, or crayons.

3. Remove the tape and mix up the pieces. Try and put the pieces together again. Exchange your puzzle with other students. The numbers in the back will help you if you get stuck.



Did you know...

about Mosquitoes

Male mosquitoes do not bite animals or humans; they feed only on plant juices. Female mosquitoes are the blood-seekers. One blood meal supplies enough nutrients for the female mosquito to produce up to 250 eggs. Baby mosquitoes mature to adults in three or four days.