**WHY MOSQUITOES BUZZ IN PEOPLE’S EARS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why Mosquitoes Buzz In People’s Ears</th>
<th>Before Viewing Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By Verna Aardema, ill. by Leo &amp; Diane Dillon</td>
<td>Share the book Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears with children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Dial)</td>
<td>Locate West Africa on a map. Talk with children about climate, rainfall, vegetation and inhabitants.</td>
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<td>Themes: Africa, Folktales</td>
<td>Talk with children about the idea of telling tall tales or exaggerating. Ask: What is the difference between exaggerating and telling a lie? Why do you think people sometimes tell tall tales or exaggerate? How would you feel if you found out that something a friend told you was not the truth? What could the iguana in the story have done when the mosquito told him a tall tale? How might this have changed the story?</td>
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<td>Grades K – 3</td>
<td>Discuss jungle animals with children. Encourage children to use the library and other resource books to see how much they can find out about the animals they met in the story. Later, have children share the information they uncovered with one another.</td>
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<td>Running time: 10 minutes, Iconographic</td>
<td>After Viewing Activities</td>
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<td>Summary</td>
<td>Cover an entire classroom wall with large sheets of kraft paper or newsprint. Then supply paints that children can use to create a jungle wall mural. As children work, discuss the physical characteristics of the different animals and the ways their colors help to camouflage their bodies and keep them safe from their enemies.</td>
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**Objectives**

- Children will explore African culture
- Children will learn about jungle animals
- Children will investigate the concept of cause and effect

**Before Viewing Activities**

- Locate West Africa on a map. Talk with children about climate, rainfall, vegetation and inhabitants.
- Talk with children about the idea of telling tall tales or exaggerating. Ask: What is the difference between exaggerating and telling a lie? Why do you think people sometimes tell tall tales or exaggerate? How would you feel if you found out that something a friend told you was not the truth? What could the iguana in the story have done when the mosquito told him a tall tale? How might this have changed the story?
- Discuss jungle animals with children. Encourage children to use the library and other resource books to see how much they can find out about the animals they met in the story. Later, have children share the information they uncovered with one another.

**After Viewing Activities**

- Cover an entire classroom wall with large sheets of kraft paper or newsprint. Then supply paints that children can use to create a jungle wall mural. As children work, discuss the physical characteristics of the different animals and the ways their colors help to camouflage their bodies and keep them safe from their enemies.

**Have children create short stories based on a tall tale.** Offer children a story starter such as, "One day a boy whispered into his brother's ear.... Allow older children to write their stories and younger children to dictate their stories to you. Later, display children's stories on a classroom wall or bulletin board. You might want to draw and cut out a long monkey's tail and attach it vertically to the bulletin board or wall to head your "Tall Tale" story display.

- Play the "tell me a secret" game. Have children sit in a circle and whisper a secret to the person sitting next to him or her. This person whispers the same secret to the next person, who whispers it to the next person, and so on. The last person to hear the secret says it out loud to the group. Children will say whether or not this was the secret that was whispered to them. As the game continues, help children understand how messages can be misrepresented or inaccurately relayed.

**Other book based films and videos about African culture are available from Weston Woods. These include:**

- **MUFARO’S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS** by John Steptoe
- **THE VILLAGE OF ROUND AND SQUARE HOUSES** by Ann Grifalconi
- **A STORY-A STORY** by Gail E. Haley
- **HOT HIPPO** written by Mwenye Hadithi and illustrated by Adrienne Kennaway

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