



Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theatre

THE JUNGLE BOOK

JANUARY 21— FEBRUARY 6, 2011



By Playwright and Director:
Keith Smith

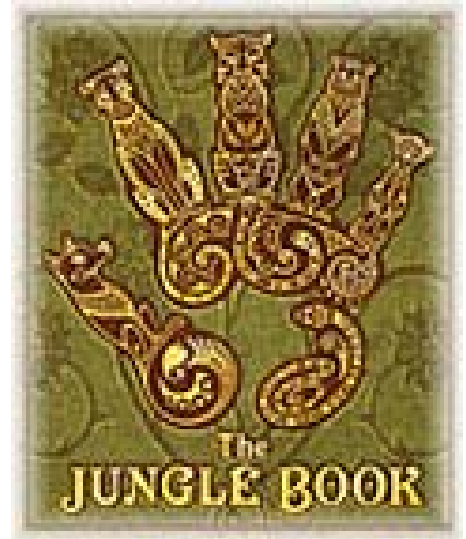
Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* and its sequel *The Second Jungle Book* contain story after story that beg to be experienced by each new generation of young readers and theater-goers. I have long been drawn to these tales, having read them in childhood and adapted and directed three different versions of them for the Children's Theatre stage over the years. They are among my favorites for a number of reasons: they are heavy with adventure and theatrical potential; they present exciting visual opportunities and challenges; the characters are richly and candidly drawn; but most of all, these stories are important for the social lessons they offer.

When we think of the jungle, we think of a savage and mysterious world where the weak are prey for the strong,

and Kipling's jungle is no different. At the same time, however, his jungle is a living functioning society with its own order and codes of conduct:

*This is the Law of the Jungle,
As old and as true as the sky,
And the Wolf that shall keep it may prosper,
But the Wolf that shall break it must die.
As the creeper vine girdles the tree-trunk,
The Law runneth forward and back,
For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf,
And the strength of the Wolf is the Pack.*

It may seem a harsh code, but it is rooted in some fundamental, "humane" values: respect, obedience, fairness, temperance, and even charity—lessons that are always necessary and always relevant, just as I know Kipling's *Jungle Books* will remain for many more generations to come.



Jungle Map Activity

In Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* the term *jungle* refers to the tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia and India. These rainforests are filled with tall trees and are located in regions where there is year round warmth and plentiful rainfall. More species of amphibians, birds, insects, mammals, and reptiles live in these forests than anywhere else in the world.

In this activity let's make a salt map of the tropical rainforests of the world.

You will need:

- *Mapping salt recipe*
- *Plywood board*-this should be a rectangular shaped board anywhere from 3' x 4' to 2' x 3', the board should be 1/2" to 1/4" in thickness
- *Map of the world*-see online resources for map

Mapping Salt Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup white flour
- 2/3 cup water

Directions:

- Mix salt with regular white flour in a medium bowl
- Add water and stir until mix-

ture is as thick as icing

- On board, shape moist dough into hills, valleys, oceans, rivers, and continents to make a topographical map.
- Drying time will vary according to thickness of map
- **OPTIONAL:** you can separate dough into amounts for each continent and add food coloring-a different color for each continent

Steps:

1. Draw in pencil the outline of the continents and oceans on the plywood
2. Once you are satisfied with your drawing, trace the outline in black permanent marker
3. Prepare the recipe for Mapping Salt and apply to all the continents
4. Let the mixture on the board dry completely—this could take a couple of days
5. Paint each continent a different color—do not use green
6. Allow paint to dry completely
7. Go back and apply green paint to all areas where tropical rainforests exist
8. Make labels for each continent and ocean and glue them to map
9. Make toothpick flags for each rainforest animal that were characters in *Jungle Book*-see list
10. Attach animal flags to rainforest regions where they can be found

Additional information that may be added to maps may include:

- Products produced in rainforest regions
- Plant species of the rainforest
- Indigenous tribes living in the rainforest

Jungle Book Animals

- Hathi-wild elephant
- Kao-Rock python
- Bagheera-panther
- Baloo-brown bear
- Shere Khan-tiger
- Tabaque-jackal
- Mang-bat
- Sahi-porcupine
- Tabaque-porcupine
- Wolves of the pack

SOCIAL STUDIES FRAMEWORKS Strand: Geography

Standard 1 Physical and Spatial

Students shall develop an understanding of the physical and spatial characteristics and applications of geography.

“Little Frog” Models and Research



In *The Jungle Book* Bagheera and Baloo often refer to the man-cub as “Little Frog.” This is used as a term of endearment; however, it also points out that he is very vulnerable and needs protection.

Background Information for Teachers:

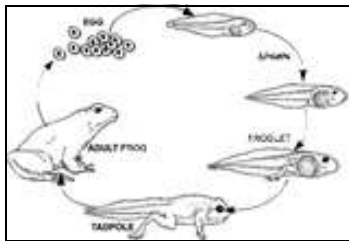
There are over a thousand different tree frogs that live in Tropical Rainforests around the world.

Each of these are interesting and unique in their appearance and behaviors. Involve your students in some individual research on Tropical Rainforest tree frogs. Refer to the list for some examples. Students should have a picture of the tree frog that they find the most interesting. They should also be aware of the size of their chosen frog. Ask them to take notes on interesting facts about their chosen frog and its habitat. Ask them to find out if their frog is a rare species or a threatened species. Many species are endangered and must be protected so that they will not become extinct.

Rare species— a species that has very few living members. They live in protected areas so that their numbers won’t decrease.

Threatened species—a species that is common in some areas, but their populations are decreasing in number.

Explain to your students that tree frogs are amphibians. The life cycle of an amphibian is unique to other animals.



After the research has taken place by your students:

- Give each student a portion of air-dry clay. Ask them to create a model of their tree frog. This model should be fairly accurate in the tree frogs true size and shape.
- Once the clay is dry the students can paint their frog with the markings unique to their frog.
- Students should display their models and their notes for the classroom.

Tree Frogs of the Tropical Rainforests

- Red-eyed Tree frog
- Tropical Tree frog
- The Strawberry Poison Dart Frog
- Blue Jeans Poison Dart Frog
- Green and Black Poison Dart Frog
- Yellow-Banded Poison Frog
- Hyla Tree Frog
- Monkey Frog
- Leaf Toad
- Three Striped Poison Dart Frog
- Cat-Eyed Frog
- Yellow and Blue Poison Arrow Frog

LIFE SCIENCE FRAMEWORKS Standard 4: Populations and Ecosystems

Students shall demonstrate and apply knowledge of populations and ecosystems using appropriate safety procedures, equipment, and technology.

THEATRE ETIQUETTE

1. **Please turn off your cell phones** so you can look at all the little things that make live theater a great big experience.
2. **Save all food, gum, candy and drinks for after the performance.** They are not allowed in the theater and can be used as a reward for good behavior!
3. **Sit like a grown up** in your seat. That way you won't miss a thing!
4. Great theater audiences listen, laugh when something is funny and clap at just the right time. **They never talk out loud during a performance.**
5. **Keep your cameras tucked away and turned off. Photography is not permitted in the theater.** Camera flashes blind the actors and can cause them to step off the stage.
6. When the play is over, **enjoy talking with your friends and grownups** on the way home about all the details. See who can remember the most about the play. Start by sharing two things that an actor said that made you smile and two things that you remember about the stage set.
7. **Parents:** What a great time to have a conversation about the difference between the theater, movies, and TV!

Thank you for being a great part of our audience and enjoy the show!

ONLINE RESOURCES

- <http://geography.about.com/library/blank/blxindex.htm>
- http://geography.about.com/od/blankmaps/Blank_and_Outline_Maps.htm
- www.ehow.com/...7237506_tropical-rainforest-tree-frogs.html
- costarica21.com/rainforest-frogs.html
- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Jungle_Book.com

The Education Department offers **Teacher Academies** for **Professional Development Credit** in several curriculum areas. **The World in Which Impressionism Grew** January 22 and 29, February 12 and 16, 2011 is a great way to incorporate language arts, and visual arts into your classroom.

Visit www.arkarts.com for more information

Send us a letter and let us know about your theatre experience!

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