

Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award Nominee Resources

**This guide includes storytime
and early literacy ideas for:**

We All Play by Julie Flett



This program guide was created for the use of Indiana librarians to promote the 2022 Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award, however anyone is welcome to use these resources.

Pixabay and Canva are great resources for royalty free images, and we made use of them to make this guide. Special thanks to TeachingBooks.net for their support of our award including printing our ballots and stickers. Don't forget to check out TeachingBooks.net via the INSPIRE databases for more resources for each book.

- Suzanne Walker, Indiana State Library / Editor

#INfireflyaward

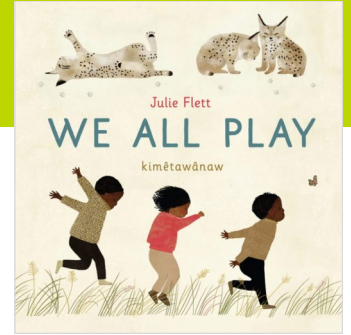
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We All Play

Written by Julie Flett



Animals are playful creatures. They hop, swim, bend, and chase just like children do! The Cree words in this book provide a rich backdrop for discussing language and culture.

TALKING | Cree Words

Audio pronunciations of the Cree words from this book are available at greystonebooks.com (<https://tinyurl.com/2p8bhzcfc>). Play them for the children (or practice them yourself before the program) so you can teach them. The audio guide includes pictures so children can visualize the animal as they are learning its name. Help the children practice pronouncing these words.



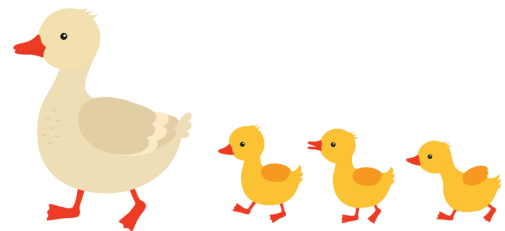
Show the children the Cree words in the book - make sure they get a good look at the writing - and explain that these words are from Plains Cree and that it is spoken, written, and read by thousands of people who live throughout Canada and the United States (i.e. North America). Show the children a map of North America and point out Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Northwest Territories, Quebec, and Montana as places where many Cree people live.

Explain to the children that in the United States, while we don't have an official national language, many people speak English. However, many other languages are also spoken in the United States. Ask the children if they speak a language besides English or Cree. Let them talk about how they learned their language (school, home?) and if they have any family or friends who speak other languages as well.

PLAYING / GROWTH MINDSET | Pretend to be an Animal

When children pretend, they are doing a lot more than just playing. Pretending to be an animal allows a child to explore what it feels like to be someone else, to interact with peers and grown-ups in different ways, and to understand that different people have different thoughts. Encourage children to take turns naming their favorite animal and then have the whole group decide on a movement for that animal and/or make that animal's noise.

Rabbits Hide and Hop: Print out the rabbit outline on page 35. Copy and cut out several rabbits and hide them around the room. Encourage the children to search for the rabbits while hopping their way from place to place like the bunnies in the story!

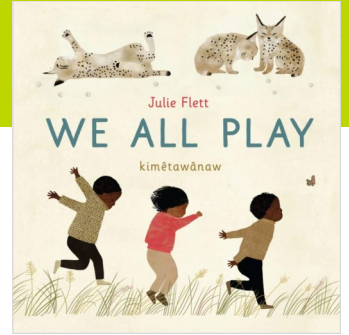


Seals Bubble: Put out shallow trays of bubble solutions along with bubble blowers (simple ones can be made from pipe cleaners) and encourage children to blow bubbles like the seals in the story!

Geese Chase: Use a large room or stretch of lawn. Let one child volunteer to be the Goose while the others will be goslings. The goose gets a head start running while everyone else counts to five before running. The first child to tag the Goose gets to be the new goose! Encourage children to chirp like the goslings in the book as they run.

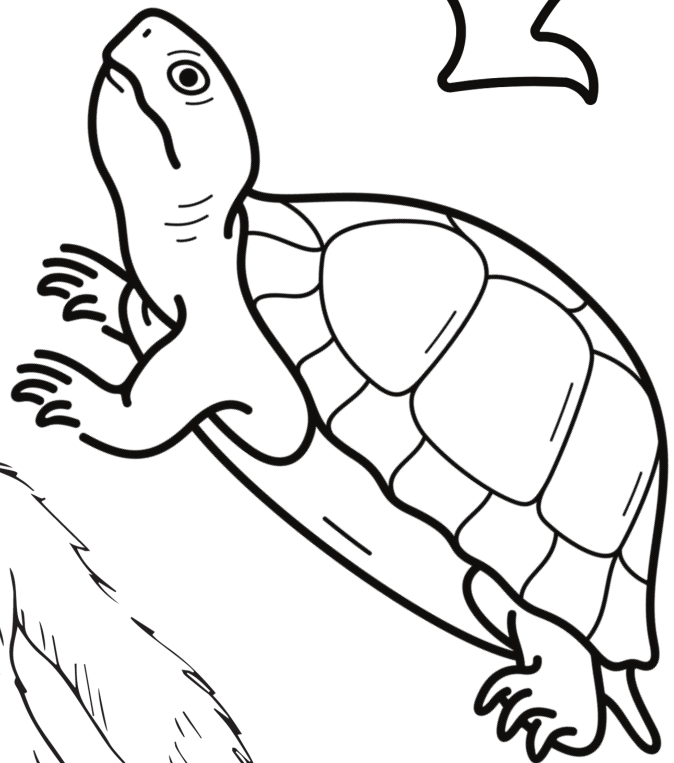
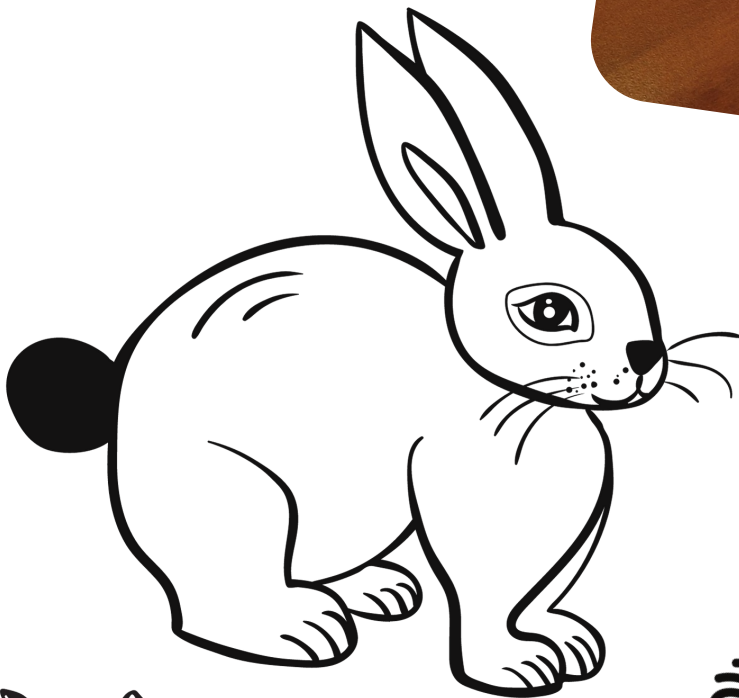
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PLAYING / WRITING | Puppets

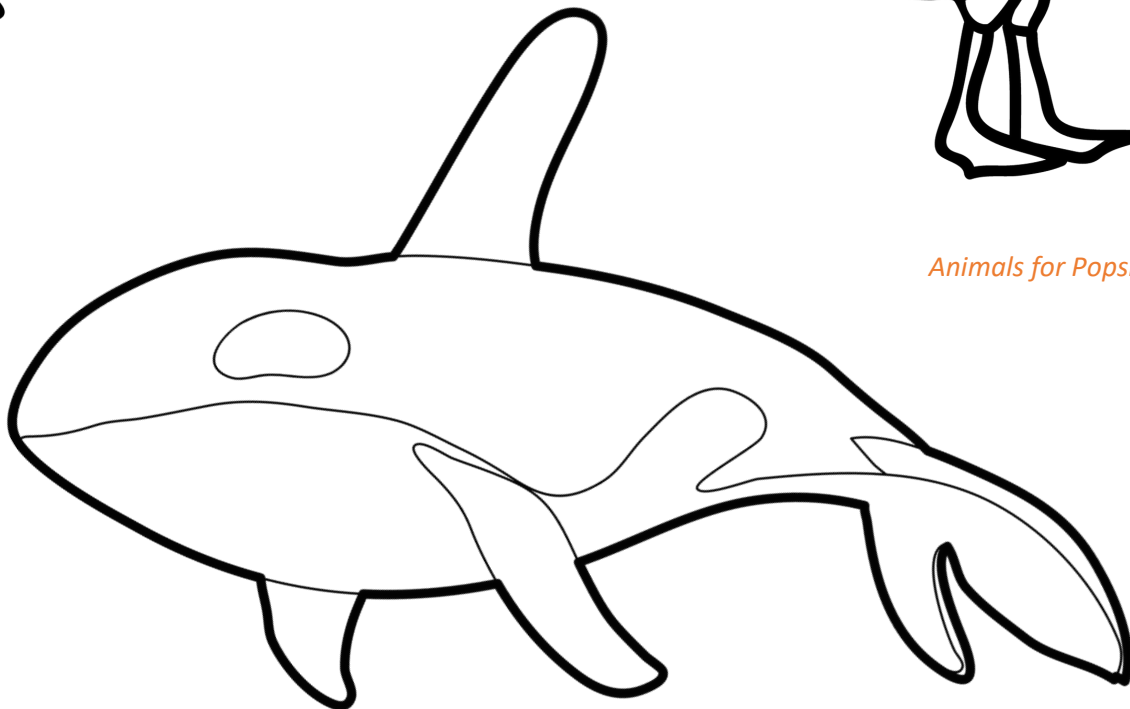
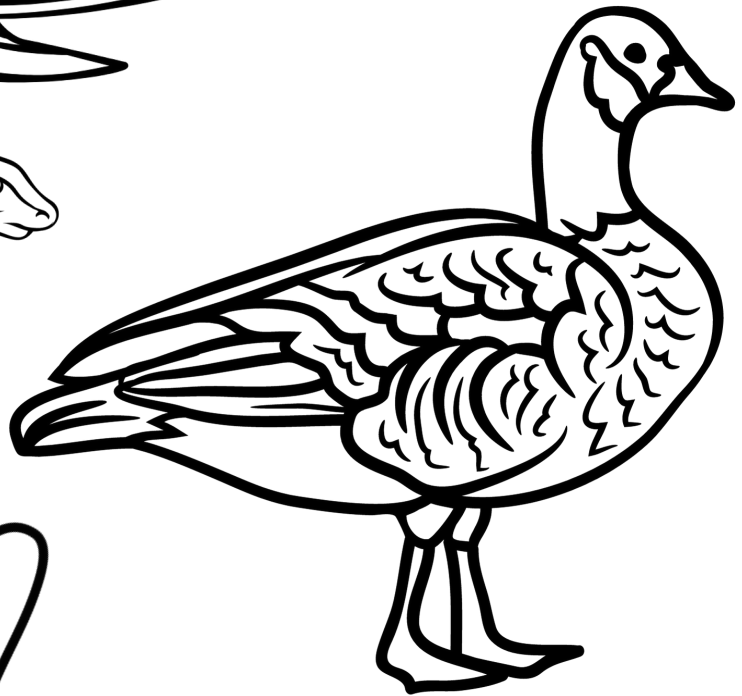
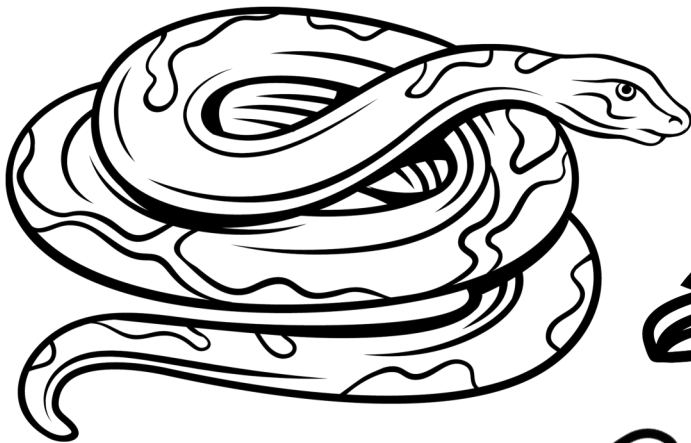
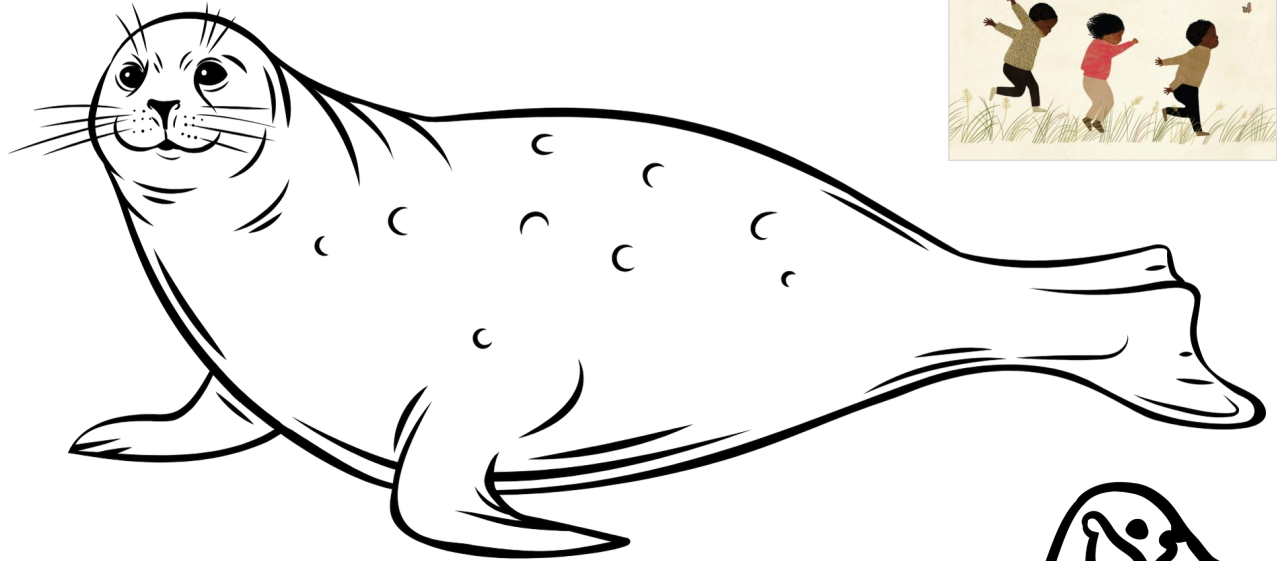
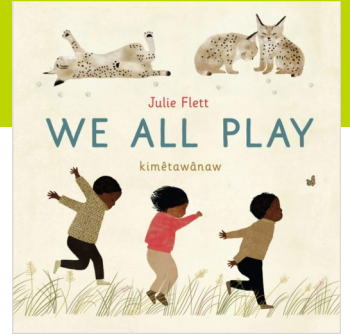
Print out the animal outlines on cardstock and have the children color them with warm, natural tones. Attach a popsicle stick to the back of each animal and retell the story with your puppet participants!



Animals for Popsicle Stick Puppets

We All Play

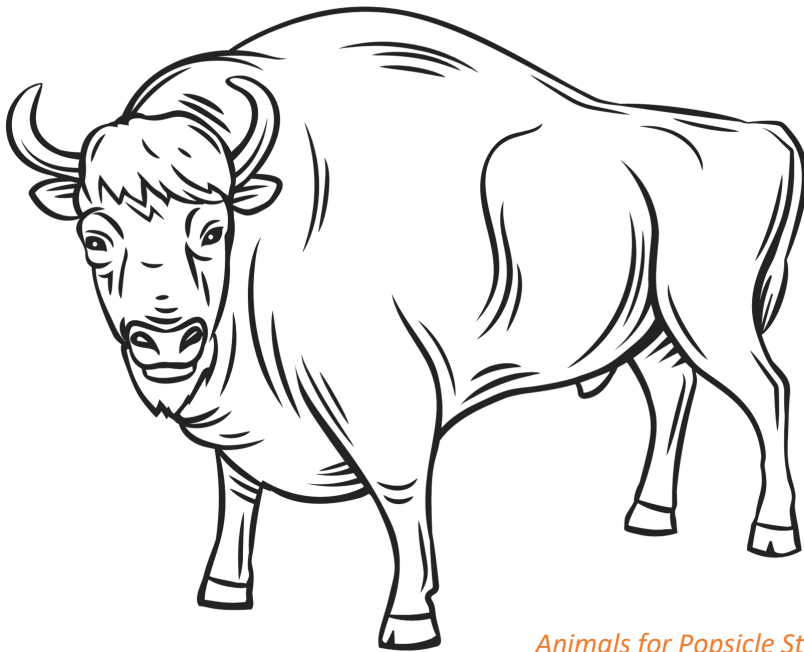
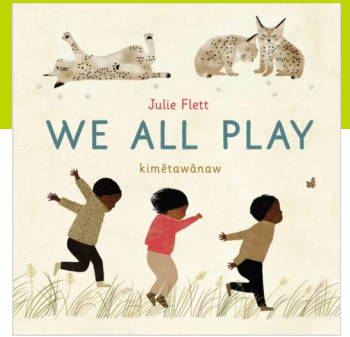
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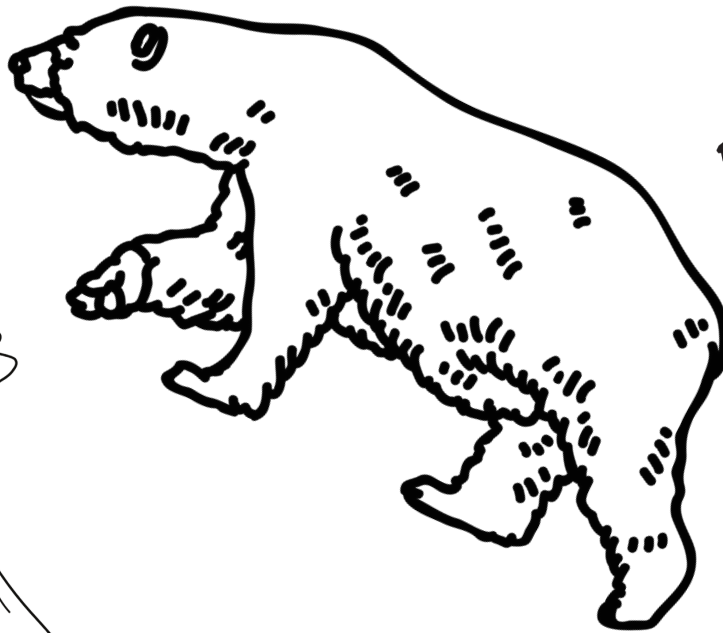
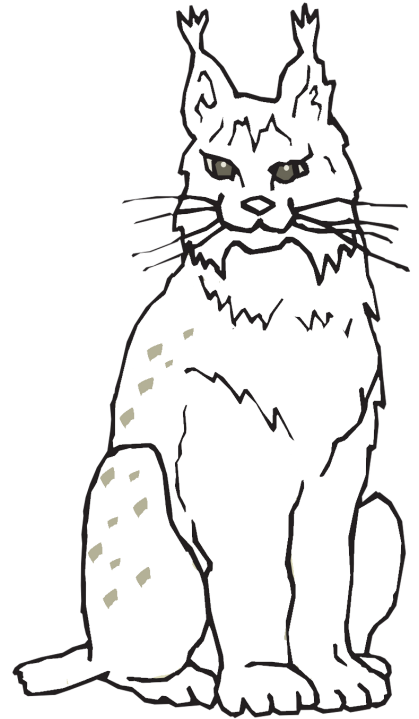
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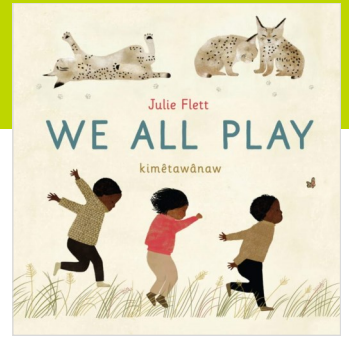


Animals for Popsicle Stick Puppets



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READING | You can apply many different storytime themes to this book.

Explore animals:

- *Grandfather Buffalo* by Jim Arnosky
- *Honk, Honk, Goose!* by Indiana author April Pulley Sayre
- *Humanimal: Incredible Ways Animals Are Just Like Us!* by Christopher Lloyd
- *Kits, Cubs, and Calves: an Arctic Summer* by Suzie Napayok-Short
- *Like People* by Ingrid and Dieter Schubert
- *Little Owl's Orange Scarf* by Tatyana Feeney
- *Little Wolf's First Howling* by Laura McGee Kvasnosky
- *Lost and Found* by JiWon Beck
- *Over and Under the Snow* by Kate Messner
- *Owl Sees Owl* by Laura Godwin
- *The Seals on the Bus* by Lenny Hort
- *Sweetest Kulu* by Celina Kalluk



Explore language and culture:

- *Bowwow Powwow* by Brenda J. Child
- *A Day with Yayah* by Nicola Campbell
- *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* by Kevin Noble Maillard
- *I Sang You Down From the Stars* by Tasha Spillet-Summer
- *In My Anaana's Amautik* by Nadia Sammurtok
- *Kiss by Kiss / Ocētōwina: A Counting Book for Families* by Richard Van Camp
- *Mama, Do You Love Me?* by Barbara M. Joesse
- *May We Have Enough to Share* by Richard Van Camp
- *Meennunyakaa / Blueberry Patch* by Jennifer Leason
- *My Heart Fills With Happiness* by Monique Gray Smith
- *Sus Yoo: The Bear's Medicine* by Clayton Gauthier
- *We All Count: A Book of Cree Numbers* by Julie Flett
- *Wild Berries* by Julie Flett

Explore play:

- *The Book of Mistakes* by Corinna Luyken
- *Can I Play, Too?* by Samantha Cotterill
- *The Couch Potato* by Jory John
- *Dragonfly Kites / Pimithaagansa* by Tomson Highway
- *The Hidden Rainbow* by Christie Matheson
- *Lali's Feather* by Farhana Zia
- *Let's Build* by Julie Fenner
- *Let's Play!* by Herve Tullet
- *Max's Dragon* by Kate Banks
- *Off to See the Sea* by Nikki Grimes
- *On a Magical Do-Nothing Day* by Beatrice Alemagna
- *The Patchwork Bike* by Maxine Beneba Clarke
- *Stella, Fairy of the Forest* by Marie-Lousie Gay
- *Wednesday* by Anne Bertier
- *What About Bear?* by Suzanne Bloom

VIDEO SPOTLIGHT:

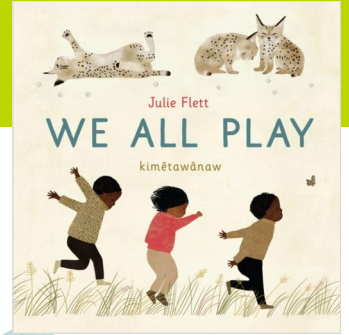
Jbrary



An Orca Whale: Storytime Song | Have you discovered Jbrary yet? Hailing from Canada, Dana and Lindsey have a plethora of songs and rhymes just right for storytime. This one is perfect for *We All Play*. Words and more ideas for this song are on the next page. Search Terms on YouTube: Jbrary Orca Whale

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SINGING / BODY MOVEMENT |

An Orca Whale: Storytime Song from Jbrary

This great song combines dynamic motions with a steady beat to introduce your storytime crew to a whole host of animals, including many from *We All Play*. Find Jbrary on YouTube. Side note, this is a great song for the *Oceans of Possibilities* theme for Summer Reading, 2022! Used with permission.

An orca whale, an orca whale.

[Arm swims across body]

Little sea scallops and an orca whale.

[hands open and close, then swim again]

An orca whale, an orca whale.

[Arm swims across body]

Little sea scallops and an orca whale.

[hands open and close, then swim again]

Sea otter, sea otter.

[thump chest with fists]

Little sea scallops and an orca whale.

[hands open and close, then swim again]

Sea otter, sea otter.

[thump chest with fists]

Little sea scallops and an orca whale.

[hands open and close, then swim again]

Add more animals from *We All Play* into the “sea otter” section:

Big bobcat, big bobcat.

[use fingers to make ear tufts]

Little sea scallops and an orca whale.

[hands open and close, then swim again]

A turtle, a turtle.

[stretch your neck]

Little sea scallops and an orca whale.

[hands open and close, then swim again]

Jump rabbit, jump rabbit.

[jump up and down twice]

Little sea scallops and an orca whale.

[hands open and close, then swim again]



SINGING | Cree Literacy Network

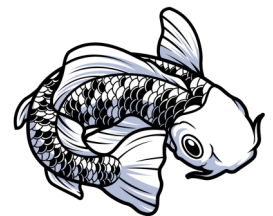
The Cree Literacy Network is a wonderful place to explore if you want to focus on Cree language and culture in your storytime. Available at <https://creeliteracy.org>, this site presents most content in written and oral form. Using their search box, look up “Songs for Kids” for a treasure trove of songs appropriate for storytime.

Here are the English words for the Cree Animal Song:

*Goose, oh goose,
Where is it that you are going?
To the south, to the south,
That's where I usually live.*

*Moose, oh moose,
Where is that you are going?
To the forest, to the forest,
That's where I usually live.*

*That's where,
that's where,
That's where I usually live.*



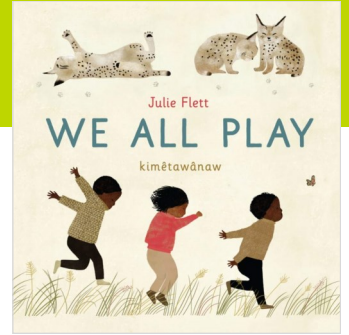
*Fish, oh fish,
Where is that you are going?
To the lake, to the lake,
That's where I usually live.*

*Eagle, oh eagle,
Where is it that you are going?
To the sky, to the sky,
That's where I usually live.*

*That's where,
that's where,
That's where I usually live.*

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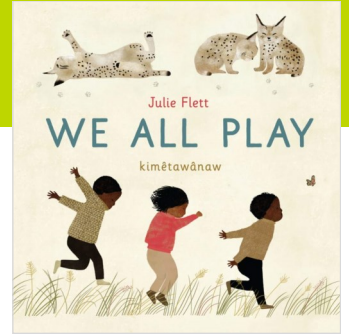
STEM / FINE MOTOR SKILLS | Exploring Symmetry

Symmetry is all over the place in nature. Think about insects, animals, leaves, and flowers. Talk to the children about symmetry and show some examples of symmetrical animals and insects in *We All Play*. Don't miss the butterfly on the cover of the book. Print out this page and have the children complete and color the butterfly. Alternatively, you could draw half a butterfly on a white board before storytime and then complete it with the children's guidance during storytime.



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SINGING / BODY MOVEMENT | Seals on the Bus

The Seals on the Bus by Lenny Hort is a playful title that features animals and is easy to sing. Add hand motions to get your participants moving. Feel free to substitute any animal you please.

C

The seals on the bus go arp, arp, arp
[Clap hands in front of you, using the backs of your hands]

G
arp, arp, arp,
C
arp, arp, arp

C

The seals on the bus go arp, arp, arp
[Clap hands in front of you, using the backs of your hands]

G C
All through the town.

The rabbits on the bus go up and down...
[Raise and lower your arms]

The snakes on the bus go hiss, hiss, hiss
[Hands together, make a snake motion]

The tigers on the bus go roar, roar, roar
[Hands in claw shapes]

The geese on the bus go honk, honk, honk
[Arms in flying motion]

The people on the bus go help, help, help!
[Hands around your mouth, crying for help]

READING | Simple Felt Board

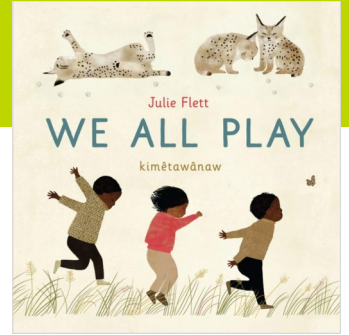
Make a simple set of felt board animals by photocopying pages from the book and cutting out the animal shapes from corresponding colors of felt (use white felt for the Beluga, black for the bunny, brown for the owl, etc.). Give an animal to each child before reading the story and ask them to bring it up and place it on the felt board when that animal appears during the reading.



Wolf prints for activity on the next page.

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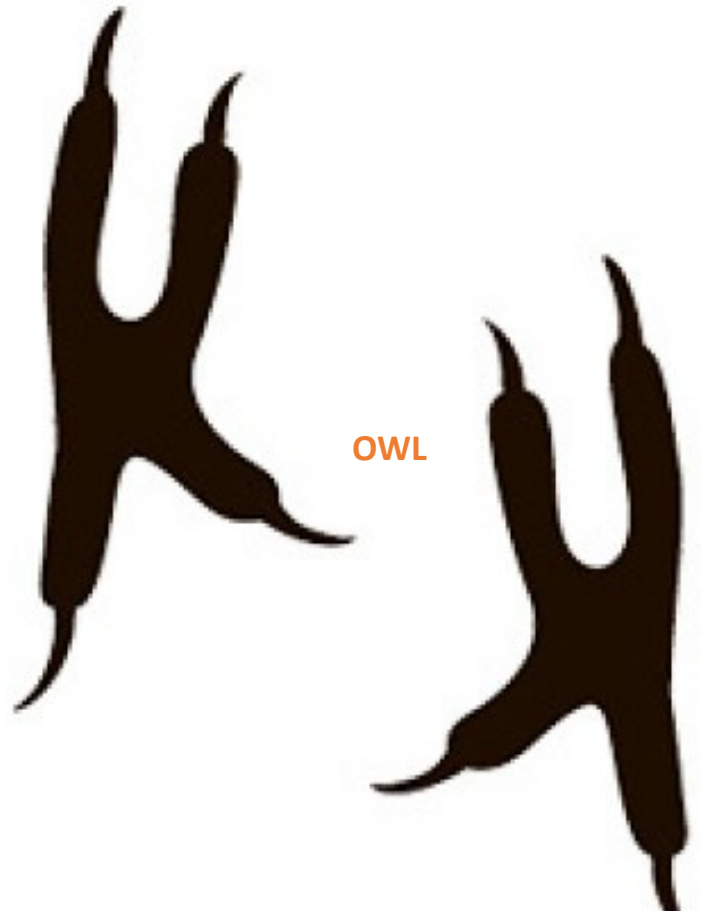
STEM / BODY MOVEMENT | Animal Tracks

Print out multiple copies of each page of animal tracks. Loosely cut around the tracks and use masking tape to stick them to the floor, going in various directions - set up a (preferably nonfiction) library book about each animal at the end of its trail, or print off photographs of each animal from the internet.

Ask the kids to guess which animal made each trail (show them the land animals and birds in the book as a reminder). Then let them follow each set of tracks to the book. Did they guess correctly? After following all the trails (or as many as you have time/attention spans for) encourage the children to look closely at the different tracks and compare them. How are they similar? How are they different? How do each animal's feet help it move in its environment, make a home, catch food, etc.? Are back and front feet sometimes different?

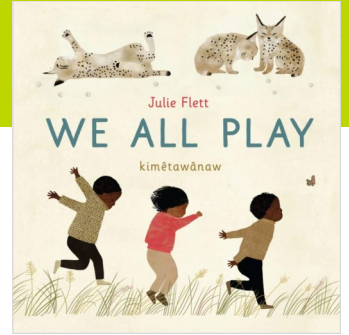
For more STEM content, work together to count how many toes each animal has on one foot. Who has the most toes? Who has the fewest toes? Which animal has different numbers of toes on its front and back feet? Finally, help the children count how many different trails they followed. To incorporate more body movement, have the children "walk like the animal" along the trail (hop like a rabbit, waddle like a goose, be on all fours like a bear, etc.).

NOTE: Rabbits tend to place their larger hind feet in front of their smaller front feet.



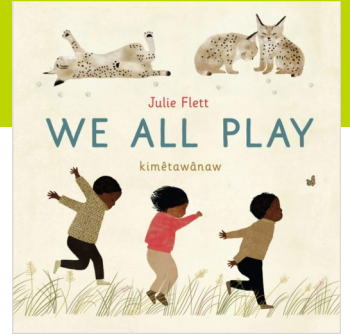
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BUFFALO

