



Animal Tails:

explorations of the animal world through connections to literature



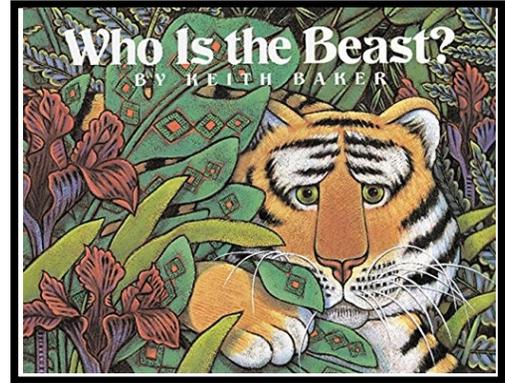
Who Is the Beast?

by Keith Baker

Age: Pre-K- 1st grade

Gather your Gear

- Who Is the Beast? book or log on to watch the storybook reading
- Tape
- Wax paper or plastic wrap
- Bathtub
- 2 buckets or large, watertight containers
- Towels



Get Ready

You can help your child make connections by thinking about concepts before reading the story.

- What types of animals have you seen at a zoo?
- What is your favorite animal? Can you describe it?

Read

Read the book, stopping to explore key story ideas. Below are some prompts to help guide you.

- What might the tiger use their whiskers for?
- Why are the other animals trying to hide or run away when they see "the beast"?

Reflect

Briefly discuss what was important or what we learned. Below are some questions to guide you.

- What similarities does the tiger share with the other animals?
- At the end of the story, who is the beast?



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Relate

Create connections to the idea through activities

Activity: Webbed-foot Relay!

In this activity you will explore how webbed feet, like a tiger's, are excellent for swimming.

1. Gather your materials and add water to the bathtub. You and your child will be scooping water out of the tub, so make sure there is enough water for scooping, and that each person participating has their own bucket to scoop into.
2. With your child/children, determine who is going to be the tiger with webbed feet, and who is going to be an animal without webbed feet.
3. Once the tiger has been chosen, use the tape and wax paper or plastic wrap to place "webbing" in between the fingers of one of the tiger's hands. The other player(s) will think about their animal and use their hand to make a shape as close to that animal's foot as possible. For example, if they choose to be a deer, they might tuck all of their fingers together with their fingertips pointing straight down into the water, or if they choose to be a flighted bird, they might tuck their thumb and pinky into their palm and use the other three fingers spread apart to "swim."
4. Once the animals have been assigned and the hands are shaped like feet, the players can begin scooping water into their buckets to a countdown of 15 seconds.
5. At the end of the countdown, assess the players' buckets to see who scooped the most water.
6. You should find the tiger to have the most water in their bucket, therefore making them the better swimmer. Large, webbed paws help the tiger move more water with each stroke, making tigers faster in the water than most of their prey, particularly hoofed animals.

Did you know:

- Tigers have large, webbed paws that are excellent for swimming.
- Sumatran tigers are the smallest of the remaining tiger species, weighing 200-300 pounds and 9-12 feet in length, including their tails.
- Tigers have special hairs on their tongues, called papillae, which make their tongues rough, and almost comb-like. This is excellent for grooming!
- Tigers are carnivores, meaning they mostly eat meat. Since they are such good swimmers, they use swimming to help them hunt animals who are slower in the water.
- Tigers have strong legs, making them excellent jumpers. They can jump forward up to 16 feet or up to 27 feet vertically.

Tiger Fun Facts:

Tigers are excellent at camouflage. The bright and dark patterns created by their stripes mimic light through the trees in their rainforest habitat, helping them blend in. Have you ever noticed the markings on their foreheads? Those are unique to each tiger and can be used by people to tell individuals apart.



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It takes a team.... join ours

Help us save species by joining the “Zoo Conservation Corps” and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If you or your family are on social media, post pictures of your activity to share with your family and friends what you have learned. Use the hashtag #OnlyZooATL so that we can see all your great work!

Want to know more....

- Go to Zoo Atlanta’s website to learn about the Sumatran tigers who live at Zoo Atlanta:
<https://zooatlanta.org/animal/sumatran-tiger/>
- Check out Zoo Atlanta’s YouTube page for videos featuring our Sumatran tigers:
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh1d5bkhX3DGMgBFOQtI5Sw>
- Another great site for information is National Geographic Kids, featuring the Bengal tiger:
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/tiger/>