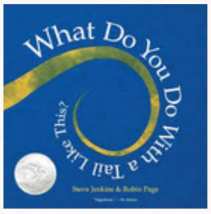
READ-ALOUD CONNECTIONS



Your child is learning to express an opinion and support it with a reason—key skills for literacy!
Use these activities, with the book provided, to explore the amazing animal kingdom together and support their learning.

Before Reading: Turn the book into a detective game to build vocabulary and anticipation by playing "The Guessing Game"

Activity	Parent Prompt
The Big Reveal	Look at the tail on the cover! Which animal do you think it belongs to, and what job does that tail have? Does it help the animal swim, climb, or just balance?
Action Vocabulary	Let's act out the words! Let's pretend to grasp (like a monkey's tail), propel forward (like a fish), and camouflage (like a chameleon).

During Reading: Focus on the reason behind an animal's features by using "Why" and "How" questions

Activity	Parent Prompt
Feature Focus	Wow, that tongue is so long! It helps the animal catch bugs. If you could have that tongue for one day, what would you use it to do?
Expressing Opinions	Out of all the features we've seen (the gecko's sticky feet, the monkey's grasping tail), which one is your favorite? Why did you choose that one?

After Reading: Enjoy making memories with this fun, creative activity!

Activity	Parent Prompt
Draw Your Favorite	Have your child draw the animal with their favorite feature. "Let's draw the animal with your favorite feature! Tell me all about it while you draw!"
The "Scribe" Game (PreK-K)	You are the helper! Have your child say their opinion, and you write it down. "I like the sticky feet because they help the gecko walk on the ceiling." (This models the school's sentence structure.)
Celebrate the Art	Display their drawing on the fridge or a wall. This is their "Author's Chair" moment—it shows their work and ideas are important!

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Bonus Connections: Create hands-on memories that bring the animal features to life!

Activity	Directions
Craft: Collage Animal Feature	Inspired by the book's illustrator, have your child use scraps of torn paper (magazines, construction paper, etc.) to create a collage of their favorite animal feature (e.g., a sleek tail, an ear).
Food: "Animal Habitats" Snack Cups	Create simple, layered snacks representing habitats: Use crushed graham crackers for "sand," pretzel sticks for "tree branches," and chopped green grapes for "grass." Add a small animal cracker to each cup!

Fun Facts
The book **What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?** was awarded a Caldecott Honor in 2004. Find out more about this award by visiting this site. (This award has been given to illustrators since 1938!)
The illustrator (and co-author) for the book is Steve Jenkins. His wife, Robin Page, is the co-author. He is known for his detailed cut- and torn-paper collage artwork, which creates realistic textures for the animals.

Explore more!	*How this works...*
"What Can Your Body Do?" Mirror Game: Have your child look in a mirror and name their own body parts (eyes, nose, mouth, feet, hands/feet). Then, ask them to make a face or do something specific with that part, just like the animals in the book! For example, "Can you make a nose that sniffs like a dog?" or "Can you wiggle your feet like you're walking on the ceiling like a gecko?"	*This works by connecting animal facts to the child's own experiences, which supports comprehension!*
Nature Walk Observation: Take a walk outside or look out a window. Encourage your child to observe birds, squirrels, or even insects and describe how they use their eyes to see, their feet to move, or their mouths to eat.	*This works by turning the book into a real-world science observation!*

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www.cultureofliteracy.org

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