



**JoJo's  
Backyard  
Safari**

*Recommended for  
Ages 3-6  
PreK to Grade 1*

## **A Reproducible Learning Guide for Educators**

This guide is designed to help educators prepare for, enjoy, and discuss **JoJo's Backyard Safari**. It contains background, discussion questions, and activities appropriate for ages 3-6.

## **Programs Are Made Possible In Part By Generous Gifts From:**

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Smithsonian Associates

## ABOUT THE PLAY

It's time for high adventure as Jojo goes on the lookout for all kinds of fascinating flora and fauna in the wilds of his very own yard. What will he find hidden in plain sight? Come along on the trek as we learn, create, and play in this musical mini-travelogue about the **hidden natural world** close to home.

These learning plays were created as part of in-school residencies promoting **creative approaches to curriculum elements** in early childhood classrooms. We are proud to present them now at our museum theatre location at the Smithsonian to encourage everyone to "get in on the act."



Playing 'pretend' as characters in stories encourages **sequencing** (*What comes next?*), **verbal skills** and **vocabulary** (*What color flowers? Why did it happen like that?*), **math** (*How many cupcakes? Let's count the pennies we need to buy the balloon!*), **pre-science** (*What do we need to get these clothes clean?*) and **problem solving** (*Oh no! How can we help?*). Each of these skills is highlighted in plays that surround different themes (zoos, field trips, veterinarians, habitats, etc.).

## CREATE YOUR OWN SAFARI ANIMALS!

What kind of animals would you see on a safari? Let's start with a giraffe!

### MATERIALS

- Yellow/Black Cardstock
- Marker
- Scissors
- Thick Glue
- Brown Pom Poms
- Wiggle Eyes

### DIRECTIONS

1. Grab your yellow cardstock. Trace your child's hand and arm on the yellow cardstock. Trim out and discard leftover cardstock.
2. Next grab your black cardstock. Cut out TWO black circles that will be placed on the "horns" of the giraffe. Go ahead and glue them to the tips of TWO fingers.
3. Glue your brown pom poms all over the handprint cutout.
4. Finish off the **Handprint Giraffe** craft by drawing on a face and adding some wiggle eyes for it to see! Then set in an undisturbed area for it to dry completely, before displaying proudly!



Find this activity and more online at: [www.gluedtomycraftsblog.com/2017/03/paper-handprint-giraffe-kid-craft.html](http://www.gluedtomycraftsblog.com/2017/03/paper-handprint-giraffe-kid-craft.html)

## HUNGRY? LET'S MAKE SOME TIGER CUPCAKES!

### INGREDIENTS

- White cake mix (of your choice)
- 1 Tablespoon cocoa powder
- Black food dye/gel
- Orange food dye/gel
- Plastic ziploc bags
- Cupcake Liners
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### DIRECTIONS

1. Mix your white cake batter and divide it in half. Add orange food coloring to one half until the desired shade of orange, then add cocoa powder and black food coloring to the other half until black.
2. Put the batter into two separate Ziploc bags and cut a tip. Once the liners are in the pan, start by piping orange batter into the center of liner.
3. Pipe black batter into the center of your orange batter, then alternate these steps until your liner is 2/3 filled.
4. Bake according to the directions on the box. Once cool, either eat or decorate!



## Creative Tools for Teaching: From Your ECE Classroom to the Stage—and Back!

Each original show is packed with sing-along and play-along moments as they tell exciting and heart-warming stories with which young learners can connect. These new productions engage and delight as they foster pre-literacy, numeracy, and emotional intelligence in children. Audiences become part of the performance—right from their seats. Enjoy these creative, enriching experiences with your students in the theater, then use our Learning Guide resources to extend the exploration into the classroom with background material, activities, and Smithsonian connections and on our soon-to-be-launched website, Creative Tools for Teachers.



**Creative Tools for Teaching** brings these wonderful plays to the stage, keeping the DIY elements and offering Discovery Theater audiences the invitation to 'play the play' with us and back in classroom or at home, with the children.

## READ...

The San Diego Zoo site has fun, interactive, and educational games that will help you learn about all different kinds of animals! The website is filled with tons of fun games and activities you can play from home! You can do crafts like create a swinging monkey, make a treat for your pet, or construct a lizard lair! Play the fun and educational games too to learn about all sorts of animals and their habitats!

<http://kids.sandiegozoo.org/games>



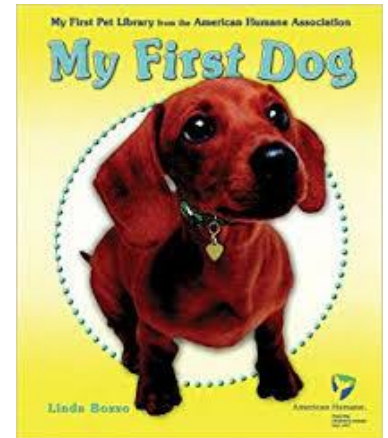
PBS Kids has a great site about how to be a good pet owner, complete with pet fun facts and advice on how to choose the right pet for you!

<http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/family/pets/index.html>

## READ...

This collection of "My First Pet" books from the American Humane society also has a bilingual option! Learn how to choose, take care of, groom, and keep your new friend healthy in your home! Learn more about how to adopt, take care of, and keep your pet happy and healthy on the Humane Society Website!

[www.enslow.com/series/my\\_first\\_pet\\_bilingual\\_library\\_from\\_the\\_american\\_humane\\_association](http://www.enslow.com/series/my_first_pet_bilingual_library_from_the_american_humane_association)



## WATCH...

Go on a virtual safari to India with National Geographic Kids! Rosie and Julian explore Corbett National Park where they have the ride of their lives on an elephant. They see lots of animals - tigers, monkeys and wild boars, oh my!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUEuU7w4VHs>





## Smithsonian Institution

### OUR MISSION: "THE INCREASE AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE"

Smithsonian Associates advances the Institution's mission through life-enriching educational and cultural experiences inspired by the Smithsonian's research and collections for DC-region students, families, and adults, and for learning communities nationwide.

Discovery Theater has been presenting DC-area children with live educational performances for almost 40 years. With programs that enrich the Smithsonian experience for nearly 50,000 children annually, Discovery Theater is a gateway to the exhibits, collections, and themes contained in the museums and galleries on the National Mall and beyond. We explore American history and cultures, folk tales from around the world, and exciting, accessible science and math programs in the company of puppeteers, storytellers, dancers, actors, and musicians. Discovery Theater performances unite ideologies, enact themes that reflect the diversity of its audiences, open avenues of self-reflection, and offer an enjoyable means for parents and teachers to demonstrate life's lessons. There's so much to do and explore at the Smithsonian—and Discovery Theater is the ideal place to begin!



#### Our Location

The S. Dillon Ripley Center, 3rd Sublevel  
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