

Traditional African poem

Teachers' notes

- 'Song of the Animal World' is an African poem that is fun to perform. It can be adapted for different voices, perhaps a chorus of voices on 'Everything lives/Everything dances'. You could also get the children to add some African instruments – shakers, rainsticks or drums – as background to the spoken voices.
- It could be interesting to write a poem in a similar way using different creatures.

Song of the Animal World

The fish goes... Hip!
The bird goes... Viss!
The monkey goes... Gnan!

I start to the left,
I twist to the right,
I am the fish
That slips through the water,
That slides,
That twists,
That leaps!

Everything lives,
Everything dances,
The fish goes... Hip!
The bird goes... Viss!
The monkey goes... Gnan!

The bird flies away,
Flies, flies, flies,
Goes, returns, passes,
Climbs, floats, swoops,
I am the bird!

Everything lives,
Everything dances,
The fish goes... Hip!
The bird goes... Viss!
The monkey goes... Gnan!

The monkey! From branch to
branch
Runs, hops, jumps,
With his wife and baby,
Mouth stuffed full, tail in air,
Here's the monkey, here's the
Monkey!

Everything lives,
Everything dances,
The fish goes... Hip!
The bird goes... Viss!
The monkey goes... Gnan!

Traditional (Zaire/Democratic Republic of Congo)

