

FROG WENT A-COURTIN'

FROG WENT A-COURTIN'

by John Langstaff, ill. by Feodor Rojankovsky

Themes: Songs/Weddings

Grade Levels: K-1

Running Time: 12 minutes, iconographic

SUMMARY

FROG WENT A-COURTIN', set to song, is the tale of a frog who proposes to a mouse. When the mouse receives permission from her uncle rat, preparations for the wedding are begun.

The story introduces a variety of insects and animals who come to the wedding, each with a different function. The moth spreads the tablecloth on the table, a black bug brings a cider jug, a bumblebee plays the banjo, a gray goose plays the fiddle. All is well until an old tom cat comes and chases the wedding guests and the newly married couple. What happens after that is left to the viewers' imagination! Children are led in song, once again singing verse after verse of "Frog Went A-Courtin'."

OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn to appreciate a story set to music.
- Children will become familiar with a variety of animals and insects.
- Children will learn to think critically.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book, *Frog Went A-Courtin'*, with children. Talk with children about insects

they may have seen. Explain that all insects have six legs, segmented bodies, and often, two pairs of wings.

Take some time to have children share their favorite songs with one another. Ask:

- Where did you learn these songs?
- What do you enjoy most about singing?
- What is your favorite instrument?
- Which of your favorite songs tells a story?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Invite an adult who can play the piano or guitar to spend time in your classroom accompanying children in the song, "Frog Went A-Courtin'" and other favorite songs. Later, allow children to explore the guest's instrument and ask questions of the visiting musician.

Give children an opportunity to dramatize the story of Frog Went A-Courtin'. Provide props that children can use in their dramatizations, including a spoon for the "raccoon", a bib for the "chick", a tablecloth for the "moth" to spread on a table, a small bucket that a "bug" can use to carry on its back, etc. Later, with children still in character, see how much children know about the animals/insects they are representing by asking such questions as:

- Where do you live?
- What do you eat?
- How do you care for your young?
- Where do you go at night?
- How do you protect yourself?

Help children use classroom and library resources to gain as much information as they can about the animals and insects that appeared in the video.

Talk with children about the ending. Ask:

- What do you think happened after the cat chased the wedding guests?

Have children determine their own story endings and illustrate them. Later, encourage children to share their illustrations with one another and describe in detail their own versions of the story ending.

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