

Vocabulary Builder:

Animal Tales

Volume 2

Step-by-step Lesson Plans



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Introduction:

SKILL BUILDING & COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Animal Tales satisfies multiple common core standards as students:

- Explore rhyme and meter in English with poetry
- Build science vocabulary with fun facts about each animal
- Check reading comprehension with scored quizzes on facts



VOCABULARY PRACTICE

The Vocabulary Builder featuring over 250* words in each volume:

- Highlights the targeted vocabulary in context
- Provides a scored vocabulary practice section
- Allows users to navigate back and forth with links from the poem lines & natural science facts to the scored vocabulary practice



*Note that words are featured in the multiple-choice practice in the chapter in which they first appear. If the same vocabulary word (or a related word form) is used in another chapter, it will link back to that chapter and show that context example. These words are noted with a plus (+) symbol. As a result, the count of 250 words contains no duplicates from chapter to chapter.

BACKGROUND

Poetry

Each volume of *Animal Tales* features 9 poems in anapestic tetrameter - 4 rhythmic units each composed of 2 weak and one strong syllable:

xxX xxX xxX xxX

Here's an example of the anapestic tetrameter from the **Red Kangaroo**:

A marsupial **made** for a **life** on the **run**,
 It's **unique**, without **equal**, and **second** to **none**.

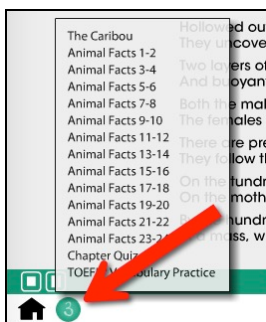
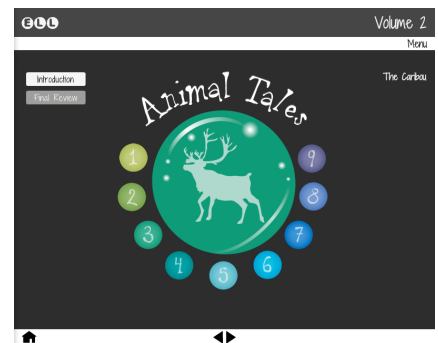
Please note that it is possible to omit the first weak syllable or add an additional weak syllable at the end.

Prose

Each poem in **Animal Tales** also features 24 facts about each animal and its environment. These facts are matched with the lines in the poem. This unique blending of poetry and prose satisfies Common Core Standards for both Informational text and Literature.

NAVIGATION

At the **main Table of Contents**, mouse over the chapter number to see the graphic change in the center and the title change in the upper right corner. Click on "Introduction" to get more information on the program. Click on "Final Review" to take the final test and get a score.



At the **Chapter level**, mouse over the chapter number in the lower left corner to see a pop-up menu with all the pages in that chapter. Click on the "Vocabulary" button in the lower right to go to the vocabulary practice. Click on "quiz" in the lower right corner to go



to the chapter quiz and get a score. Click on the rhyming words in each line to go the page with the natural science facts.

Throughout the program, click on the thumbnail photo in the lower right to see a larger photograph of the animal, a predator, or its environment. Click a second time to minimize the photo.

Use the forward and backward arrows to move one page at a time. Click on the **Home icon** in the lower left corner to go back to the Table of Contents.



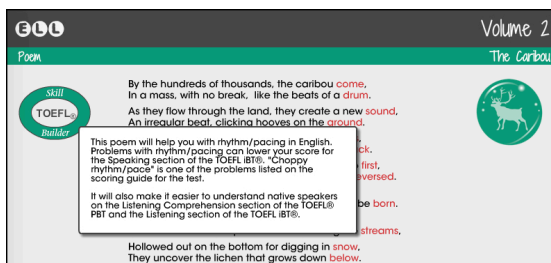
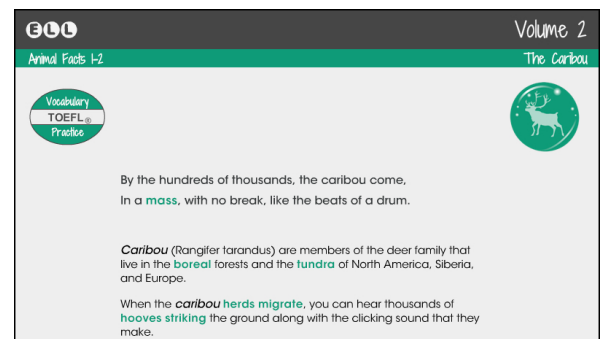
ORGANIZATION

Poems and photographs

There are nine poems with 24 lines each in each volume. Each poem features a different animal with photographs, audio, and text. See the larger photograph for the poem by clicking on the circular graphic in the upper right or the thumbnail photo in the lower right.

Poem lines with natural science facts, photographs, & vocabulary practice

Clicking on the rhyming words in each line takes you to a separate page featuring the two rhyming lines with two natural science facts and a photograph. Click once on the Vocabulary Builder button in the upper left to highlight the targeted vocabulary. Click on the highlighted words to go directly to the scored Vocabulary Practice section (see details below).

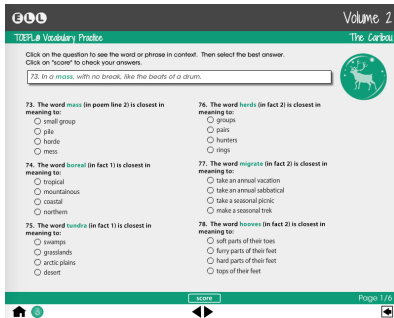


Vocabulary Builder Buttons

Mouse over the Vocabulary builder buttons in each section to get more information about the meter for the poem.

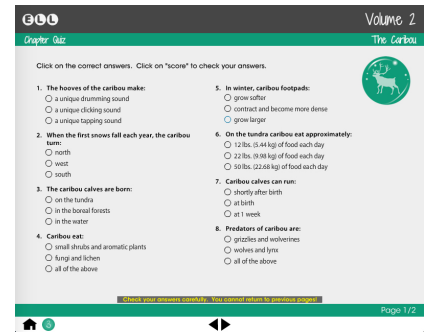
Chapter Quiz

Each chapter has a multiple-choice quiz to check listening/reading comprehension for the facts.



Vocabulary Practice

There is a scored Vocabulary practice in each chapter. Clicking on the highlighted word in the multiple-choice question will bring up the example of the word in context in the box at the top of the page.



Final Review

There is a scored Final Review with multiple rotating versions featuring three different question types:

(1) Word scrambles
(2) Multiple-choice questions for the facts
(3) Vocabulary builder

TARGET AUDIENCE

Students in middle school (reading grade levels 6.3-9.7)

MULTIPLE LEARNING STYLES

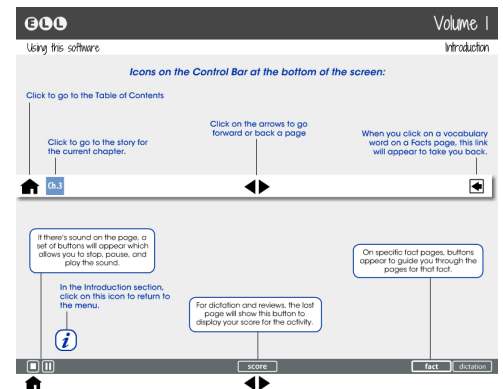
The photographs, extensive audio files, interactivity and automatic scoring appeal to multiple learning styles.

Lesson One: Program overview

In the lab: User Interface Tour

Spend some time in the lab with the program on the screen to give students a quick tour of the navigation.

- At the **main Table of Contents**, mouse over the chapter number to see the graphic change in the center and the title change in the upper right corner. Click on “Introduction” and then “Using this Software” to get more information on the program.
- At the **Chapter level**, mouse over the chapter number in the lower left corner to see a pop-up menu with all the pages in that chapter. Click on “Vocabulary Builder” to go to the vocabulary practice. Click on “quiz” in the lower right corner to go to the chapter quiz and get a score.
- On the poem page, click on the rhyming words in each line to go the page with the natural science facts. On the Fact page, click on the “Vocabulary Word Builder” graphic to see the words highlight. Click on one of the highlighted words to go to the Vocabulary Practice section. Click on the arrow in the lower right of the screen to go back.
- **Throughout the program**, click on the thumbnail photo in the lower right to see a larger photograph of the animal, a predator, or its environment. Click a second time to minimize the photo.
- Use the forward and backward arrows to move one page at a time. Click on the **Home icon** in the lower left corner to go back to the Table of Contents.
- Take students to the Final review and let them explore the interactivity here as a preview. (Give students some time to play with the final review and check their scores.)



Warm up for the homework

Show the poem picture for ***The Kodiak Bear*** on the screen (stop the audio) or write the title for the first chapter on the board.

This can be a whole class exercise with teachers facilitating the discussion or students can work in groups or with partners to answer the questions.

Ask students:

• Have you ever seen this animal?
• What do you know about this animal?
• What do you think it is eating in this picture?
• What kind of habitat do you think this animal needs to survive?

This warm-up can also be done as a cooperative activity. Put students in small groups of 4. The person with the longest hair in each group is the scribe or reporter. He/she takes notes. (You can mix this up, so the next time, the shortest person, or the person with the longest fingers in the group is the reporter.) Students work within a time limit to brainstorm all the information they currently know about this animal and its habitat. Groups report back to the class. The teacher or a student puts the information from the groups on the white board (eliminating any repetition and editing incorrect information).

On your own in the lab/homework

Review Chapter One: ***The Kodiak Bear*** including the poem, practices, and quizzes.

Lesson Two: *The Kodiak Bear*

In the classroom:

Rhyming words: Whole class

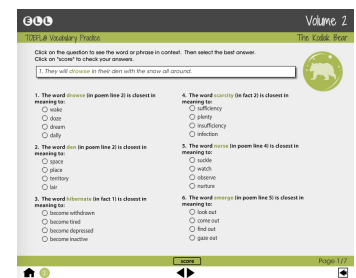
- Play/Read the lines a couple of times.
- Elicit the rhyming words from the class.



*In the cold, fast asleep in the earth, underground
They will drowse in their den with the snow all around.*

Vocabulary Comprehension Check: in the Lab or in the classroom with a projector

Go to the Vocabulary Practice for this chapter and project it on the board. Then set up teams and keep score. Each team will have one chance to choose the correct answer. If they miss it, the question goes to the other team.



Warm up for the homework

Show the poem picture for *The Red Kangaroo* on the screen (stop the audio) or write the title for the first chapter on the board.



This can be a whole class exercise with teachers facilitating the discussion or students can work in groups or with partners to answer the questions.

Ask students:

- Have you seen this animal before?
- What do you know about this animal?
- Where does the mother carry her baby?
- Where do you think it lives?

This warm-up can also be done as a cooperative activity. Put students in small groups of 4. The person with the longest hair in each group is the scribe or reporter. He/she takes notes. (You can mix this up, so the next time, the shortest person, or the person with the longest fingers in the group is the reporter.) Students work within a time limit to brainstorm all the information they currently know about this animal and its habitat. Groups report back to the class. The teacher or a student puts the information from the groups on the white board (eliminating any repetition and editing incorrect information).

Reflect:

Take a moment to reflect on the lesson and share with a partner/the group what you've learned.

Share how the voice-over (audio) & photographs change/add to the experience of reading the text.

On your own in the lab/homework

Review Chapter Two: ***The Red Kangaroo*** including the poem, practices, and quiz.

Lesson Three: *The Red Kangaroo*

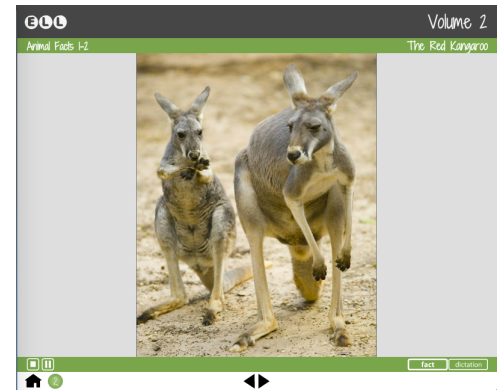
In the classroom:

Rhyming words: Whole class

- Play/Read the lines a couple of times.
- Elicit the rhyming words from the class.

<p><i>A marsupial made for a life on the run, It's unique, without equal, and second to none.*</i></p>
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*Note that different vowels make the same sound here.



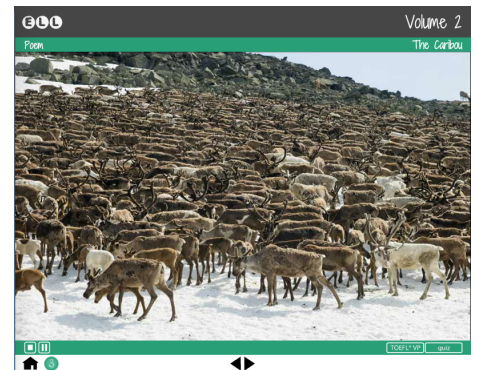
Vocabulary Comprehension Check: in the Lab or in the classroom with a projector

Go to the Vocabulary Practice for this chapter and project it on the board. Then set up teams and keep score. Each team will have one chance to choose the correct answer. If they miss it, the question goes to the other team.

Warm up for the homework

Show the poem picture for *The Caribou* on the screen (stop the audio) or write the title for the first chapter on the board.

This can be a whole class exercise with teachers facilitating the discussion or students can work in groups or with partners to answer the questions.



Ask students:

- | |
|---|
| • Have you seen these animals before? |
| • What do you know about these animals? |
| • How do you think they get their food? |
| • Where do you think they live? |

This warm-up can also be done as a cooperative activity. Put students in small groups of 4. The person with the longest hair in each group is the scribe or reporter. He/she takes notes. (You can mix this up, so the next time, the shortest person, or the person with the longest fingers in the group is the reporter.) Students work within a time limit to brainstorm all the information they currently know about this animal and its habitat. Groups report back to the class. The teacher or a student puts the information from the groups on the white board (eliminating any repetition and editing incorrect information).

Reflect:

Take a moment to reflect on the lesson and share with a partner/the group what you've learned.

Share how the voice-over (audio) & photographs change/add to the experience of reading the text.

On your own in the lab/homework

Review Chapter Three: *The Caribou* including the poem, practices, and quiz.