

# On safari

Use these colourful images to introduce safari-themed discussions and activities

## Activities to support the Early Years Foundation Stage

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Focus on the image of the hot-air balloon and discuss what the occupants might see from the basket. Ask children what they think it feels like to float in the air. Create a role-play balloon basket from a large cut-down cardboard box and provide binoculars, cameras and telescopes for imaginary safaris.
- Make comparisons between the appearance of the Maasai woman in the poster and photographs of familiar people in the children's lives, for example, skin and hair colour, hairstyles, beards and moustaches, decoration such as hair ornaments, necklaces and earrings, spectacles, facial expressions. Discuss similarities and differences sensitively.

### Communication and Language and Literacy

- Invite children to think of appropriate words related to the movement and appearance of the elephants, for example, 'stampeding', 'plodding', 'heavy', 'huge flapping ears', 'tiny eyes'. Do the same with the tiger. Contrast the appearance of the fierce tiger with the calm zebras. Ask children to describe how they might feel if they came face to face with these animals on safari.
- Make up a story together about the poster images, for example, travelling by jeep to visit the Maasai tribe, spotting elephants and zebras on the way, and returning in a hot-air balloon. Arrange laminated image cards in order to help recall the story events.

### Mathematics

- Ask children to identify the animals on the poster. Explain that they are wild and discuss the meaning of this word. Do we see these animals in our countryside? Make a list of some wild animals that live in Britain. Invite children to sort model wild animals into two groups labelled 'Africa' or 'Other countries' and 'Great Britain'. (Tigers are native to India/South-East Asia.)
- Count the number of tigers and elephants on the poster. Explain that tigers usually live alone whereas elephants live in herds. Estimate how many zebras are in the poster, then point to each one and count up carefully. Pose practical problems that involve counting model zebras, tigers and elephants.

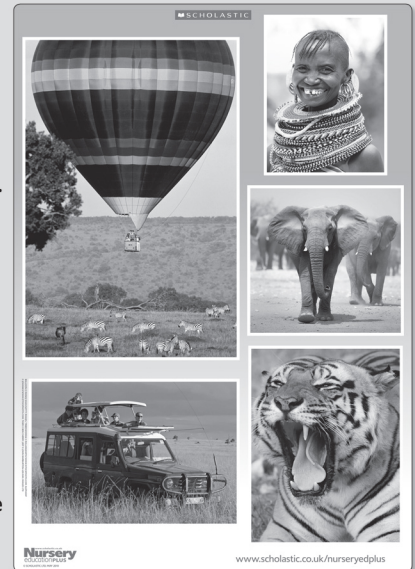
### Understanding the World

- Identify the two ways of safari travelling on the poster and discuss the merits and disadvantages of each. For example: a balloon would be quiet so that animals would not be disturbed, but the view might be obscured by trees, whereas a noisy jeep might frighten animals but could get closer. Have the same discussion about a walking or boating safari.
- Examine the jeep image and a model jeep and talk about why these vehicles are used for safaris, for example, they have open tops which offer clear views, four-wheel drive to negotiate rough terrain and camouflage colour.

### How to use the poster

Display the poster at child height so that you can discuss the images together. Gather together related items, such as bead necklaces, earrings, a model jeep, elephant, zebra and tiger; books about Africa and other countries where people go on safari; perhaps some travel brochures. Arrange them on a table alongside and encourage children to explore them freely.

Alternatively, cut out and laminate each image to create a set of picture cards. Display the cards in different play areas, for example, mark-making, small world, role play and creative areas so that children can use them as they choose.



### Physical Development

- Ask children to dramatise an imaginary safari journey through movement, for example, riding in a jeep, bobbing over rough ground while trying to take photographs, and joining a Maasai jumping dance.
- Explore the Maasai woman's necklace and earrings together. Provide children with a selection of natural and recycled materials, such as twine, pasta tubes, foil and sweet wrappers to create their own necklaces.

### Expressive Arts and Design

- Display a laminated image of the Maasai woman on a table along with hand and free-standing safety mirrors and a selection of decorative jewellery and hair ornaments. Encourage children to have fun changing their appearance and provide a camera for them to record these changes.
- Draw attention to the colours on the balloon and explain that red, yellow and green are the colours of the Ethiopian flag. Create hot-air balloons by covering blown-up balloons with papier mache and painting them in these colours. Tie a small box to the bottom of the balloon for small characters to ride in. Suspend the balloons above a safari display.

Jean Evans is an early years consultant and author.