

Play School

Early Education Notes

Play School's Wonderful World: Series 2

Background

*"It's a wonderful world full of wonder
Spinning around and around
There are so many wonderful places to see
A world of adventure that's waiting for me
A world of adventure that's waiting for me"*

Extending on endless opportunities to learn through play in 'Wonderful World Series 1', Play School embarks on another series of global exploration, discovery, and fun!

In Play School's Wonderful World: Series 2 we explore fascinating natural environments and native animals from around the world including China, Peru, Japan, Canada and South Africa. Through stories and art, music, delicious food and virtual travel 'Through the Windows', Play School sparks another round of excitement and appreciation for diverse cultures and the many amazing places in our Wonderful World.

Follow-up learning opportunities

Links to the EYLF

Recognising that 'diversity contributes to the richness of our society and provides a valid evidence base about ways of knowing' (EYLF). Ideas explored in this series link to the following Learning Outcomes.

- Outcome 1.3: Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities.
- Outcome 1.4: Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect.
- Outcome 2.1: Children are connected with and contribute to their world. Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation.
- Outcome 2.2: Children respond to diversity with respect.
- Outcome 2.4: Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment



- Outcome 4.2: Children are confident and involved learners, developing a range of skills and processes such as problem-solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesis, research and investigation.

Wildlife wonders



Alex and Karen play animal Flip and Find!

A strong focus on wildlife and habitat creates opportunities to explore some amazing animals native to each country, and often very different to our own native wildlife here in Australia.

In China we meet the Giant Panda and learn about its diet of bamboo leaves. Through a fun game of 'Flip and Find', Karen and Alex introduce us to the cheeky golden snub-nosed monkey with its bluish coloured face, the Golden Pheasant with its stunning array of coloured feathers, the spotty clouded leopard with its bushy tail, the Asian elephant, the red panda, and the binturong, which is also known as a bearcat, and interestingly smells like popcorn!

While exploring South Africa we focus on animal pattern and colour as we meet the African elephant and the rhinoceros, then Hunter and Emma complete the missing patterns on the leopard with its black and brown spots, the zebra with its black stripes, the giraffe with its patches and give the lion a shaggy papery mane.

In Japan we are introduced to Japanese macaque monkeys, warming themselves in the natural hot springs (*onsens*) high in the snow-covered mountains. We see the red crowned crane with its black and white feathers and long black legs. And we make origami bears for the told story in which Kiya and Jemima set off in a boat to sail the islands around Japan in search of the cheeky snow monkeys.

Our fourth episode finds us in South America where we explore Peru and meet llamas high on the mountains around the ancient city of Machu Pichu. A riverboat cruise down the Amazon River through the jungle with the toys reveals a macaw with its brightly coloured feathers and sharp beak for eating fruit and nuts, a slow sleepy sloth in a tree, and a surprise jaguar getting ready to take a swim in the river. The jaguar's spotty fur makes it camouflaged and hard to see amongst the shadows of the jungle.

The final episode in the series is set in Canada, where Hunter and Luke help the animals to find their home as we explore animal habitats with an array of craft paper puppets and discover where they live. The moose feels at home roaming the forests, the polar bear wanders on the ice, the walrus and beluga whale with her calf swim in the freezing arctic waters, the beaver is busy building a den in the dammed river and the black bear rests in a tree in the forest.



Cheeky snow monkeys join the story in episode 3.

Extension ideas

Make your own animal puppets – children might draw and cut out their animals or characters, then use glue or double-sided tape to attach them to an upright cardboard tube so they stand on their own. Or add a paddle pop stick and create an environment for them in the sand or the garden, or maybe inside on a tray with some play doh.

What other origami animals or shapes can you make? Try using different sized and patterned squares of paper.

Look for patterns around you – can you find stripes, spots, and patches in natural and made elements of your environment? What other patterns can you find?

Explore our own individual body patterns - make fingerprints and enlarge them using a photocopier or on a screen. Are they all the same or different? Can you find your way from one side to the other of your fingerprint maze?

Explore perspective - look at and photograph or try to draw an object from above and from the side. How is it the same and different?

Food



Special guest, Eric Mao, joins Karen and Alex in the kitchen to make a delicious Chinese noodle dish.

Food and culture are strongly connected. In this series we make delicious things to eat using traditional ingredients and methods.

Special guest chef [Eric Mao](#) shows us how to make 油泼扯面 (pronounced phonetically in English as you po che mian). The dough is rolled, stretched and smacked down on the bench to make long noodles which are then draped on a noodle rack, ready to cook and serve with a special sauce. Find the recipe on the [Play School website](#).

While on their South African safari, Kiya and Jemima try salty biltong, sweet cornbread and boboti; a traditional dish of curried mincemeat with an egg topping.



Michelle and Alex make delicious sushi using nori (dried seaweed) and short-grain rice. A little water for your fingers and the knife helps to manage the sticky rice. Alex rolls carrot and avocado in his sushi, while Karen adds tempeh, cucumber, and tangy spring onion. Oishi (delicious)!

More recipe ideas



Hunter and Luke enjoy chia pudding with Canadian maple syrup.

Hunter and Luke make a creamy chia pudding with a dollop (or two) of maple syrup, then add some juicy chopped strawberries, kiwi fruit and blueberries on the top.

Maple dressing is delicious on a salad. Find the recipe on the [Play School website](#).

Mix maple and ricotta as a (slightly healthier) alternative to ice cream; or use a churner to make your own maple ice cream. Find the recipe on the [Play School website](#).

A tablespoon of chia cooked with oats and water (or milk) makes delicious porridge for breakfast. Add some fruit or yogurt on top!

Try edamame with your sushi or just as a tasty snack. Packed with nutrients, protein and fibre, edamame is not always easy to find fresh, but frozen can last for up to a year in your freezer. Cook frozen edamame in salted boiling water for 2-3 minutes, or if fresh, for 3-5 minutes. Edamame can also be steamed. Gently pop or squeeze the cooked beans out of the shell to gobble up and discard the shells to your compost or worm farm.

Music and dance



Special guest, Pepsie Magonya shows Hunter how to do the gumboot dance!

There is lots of wonderful music and dance in this series, with the help of some special guests.

Traditional African dancer Pepsie joins Hunter for The Gumboot Dance. Pepsie's father was a miner in South Africa and showed her the gumboot dance, a traditional form of communication created by miners to use in the dark or when they were not allowed to speak.

Our told story in the episode on China finds Panda performing at the Bamboo Club with some traditional Chinese instruments - the rattle drum, tangu drum and golden gong.

We learn the 'Balicha', a traditional Peruvian dance with Hansel and Victor as they create music with the sampoña (a bamboo wind instrument) and the 10-stringed charango.



We celebrate springtime in Japan with Alex and Michelle amongst the cherry blossoms.

Haruga Kita

*Haru ga kita, haru ga kita,
doko ni kita
Yama ni kita, sato ni kita,
no ni mo kita*

*Spring has come, spring has come
Here in the mountains,
here in the village,
here in the fields.*

Extension ideas

Make your own rattle drum using a small box or container. Try various items attached on a short string to explore the different sounds you can make.

Discover some other traditional music styles and types of dance from other cultures.

Through the windows

You can revisit each Through the Windows film exploring China, Peru, Japan, Canada and South Africa in ABC Kids Early Education's [Family, Community and Culture collection](#).

Other follow-up ideas



Construction

Karen and Alex use boxes to recreate the incredible Great Wall of China, adding the watch holes to see through and towers for look outs. Children might see how long they can make a wall using wooden blocks or a collection of smaller boxes or egg cartons.

In the episode on Peru we build the ruins of the ancient city of Machu Pichu. Make your own bricks using dough or clay and explore different building methods for strength and stability. How can you make them all about the same size?

How high can you build before they fall over? What shapes can you make?

The globe



Keep a globe accessible for children to investigate. Explore how the earth is made up of land and water, and consider the distances between countries ... how might you get from here to there?

A globe can extend interest in cultural festivals and related experiences.

Other picture book suggestions



Michelle reads 'Dharma the Llama' by Matt Cosgrove.

- **Sakura's Cherry Blossoms** (2018) by Robert Paul Weston and Misa Saburi
- **Mary Had a Little Llama/ María Tenía Una Llamita** (2013) by Angela Dominguez – a bilingual story in English and Spanish
- **Giraffes Can't Dance** (1999) by Giles Andreae
- **Animal Gallery** (1967) by Brian Wildsmith
- **Animal Spots and Stripes** (2012) by Britta Teckentrup
- **Carson Crosses Canada** (2017) by Linda Bailey and Kass Reich
- **The Great Race – The Story of the Chinese Zodiac** (2018) by Emily Hiles

Credits

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