

MUSKRAT AND SKUNK written by Donald F. Montileaux



Donald F. Montileaux is a modern-day storyteller and artist. Montileaux has established a strong reputation and rapport in the Indian community. Acceptance by his Lakota elders and peers is a great honor for him. Born in Pine Ridge, SD, Don is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. He is an award-winning artist, illustrator, presenter and consultant on Lakota culture. Montileaux uses his art to tell traditional Lakota stories, including “Tasunka: A Lakota Horse Legend and Tatanka and the Lakota People: A Creation Story”, also from the South Dakota Historical Society Press. He lives in Rapid City, SD, with his family.

>> BEFORE READING

It is best to read together, often. Plan time to read this book to your children or class a few times over the next week.

Pre-read the book by looking at the pictures together and ask children things they notice about the illustrations. Any and all observations are great.

Listen to this [version](#) for an accurate reading of the Lakota language portion of the story.

WHILE YOU READ:

This book is wonderful to practice saying words and to get children moving. Here are some fun ideas to try.

- You can use the audio version again with infants to hold them and do a version of patty cake when you hear the sound words.
- Encourage toddlers to move their bodies anytime they hear the words thump, thump, thump, bonk, bonk, bonk, bam, bam, bam, or boom, boom, boom.
- Share about animals:
 - State that the main characters are muskrat and skunk.

- Ask children to name the other animals: birds, rabbits, squirrels, coyote, antelope, deer, buffalo, bear.
- Dance along with the animals in the story. Hold infants and dance. Older children can dance how they like.
- As you read, children can repeat the action words on the pages and make body movements to match. They can mimic the animals, stretch their wings, bob and sway. Dance clumsy like the buffalo, shuffle straight and tall like bear with heads held proudly.

Language Acquisition: Talk about new words. Use this link to search for kid friendly definitions: kids.wordsmyth.com

Hollow

Suddenly

Rhythm

Proud

Mimic



AFTER YOU READ:

»» ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY ONE: SKUNK CRAFT

(Infants)

Supplies needed:

- Black and white tempera paint
- White construction paper
- Sharpie
- Paint brushes

Directions:

1. First, put names and dates on the back of each child's construction paper.
2. Next, to make the skunk, paint white down the center of the infant's foot & paint the outside in black.
3. Press the foot onto the paper to make a print.
4. Using a paint brush, paint in the ears & tail in black and white.



5. When the paint is dry, use a sharpie to add the eyeballs, mouth & whiskers. Write "so stinking cute!" on the top.



ACTIVITY TWO: MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

(Ages 2+ years)

NOTE: Independent play is crucial for learning and

exploring. Children will enjoy experimenting with the supplies before the activity and the instruments after they are made. Please allow time for this if you are able. With small parts, be very careful and do not leave those pieces out. Rubber bands should never be within reach.

Guitar for ages 4-5:

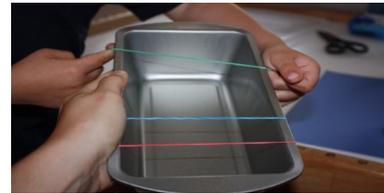
Supplies needed:

- Bread pan, 1 per child
- Variety of colored heavy duty rubber bands, 3-5 per child

NOTE: keep track of how many rubber bands you have out for safety

Directions:

1. Children can put the rubber bands on the loaf pan themselves or with help. This is good to practice fine motor skills. Children like to choose their colors, or you may want to count out 1 of each color and only hand out a certain number to maintain classroom management and safety too.



2. Once the rubber bands are securely wrapped around the bread pan, children can enjoy playing their guitars.



ACTIVITY THREE: SHAKER DRUM

(Ages 3-5+ years)

Supplies needed:

- Recycled soup cans, use the type of can opener that cuts around the side for smooth edges, 1 or 2 per child
- Masking tape or washi tape
- Any kind of pasta, beans, beads or other small items



- Variety of construction paper, precut to size and length to cover the cans
- Markers, stamp markers, crayons, colored pencils, stickers, stamps, etc
- Hot glue sticks
- Hot glue gun
- Balloons, 1 or 2 per child plus extra if they break, cut the tops off ahead of time
- Unsharpened pencils or chopsticks
- Twine or yarn

Directions:



1. Children can use any of the drawing materials, stickers and stamps to decorate their papers to go around the can.



2. Children can listen to the story again while adults glue the paper onto the tin cans with the hot glue gun. This works better than glue sticks.
3. Next, children can fill the cans with pasta and dried beans.



4. Then, with help, children stretch balloons over the top (tops cut off) and put elastic bands around them. Finish it off with a pair of chopsticks and you have a shaker and a mini drum!
5. Wrap tape around the edges of the can.
6. It helps to double the balloons on each can.
7. Children can play their drums with unsharpened pencils or chopsticks.

ACTIVITY FOUR: MARACAS

(Ages 5+ years)

NOTES: Make these ahead of time for any age children to play with. Make sure the tape is very secure for infants.

Supplies needed:

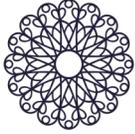
- Plastic spoons, 2 per child
- Tape
- Rice or beans

Directions:

1. Pour rice or beans into an empty plastic egg and close the egg.
2. Tape around the seam of the egg.
3. Place the egg between the heads of two plastic spoons, and wrap tape around it to hold the spoons in place.
4. Tape the handles of the two spoons to hold them together.
5. Shake your homemade maracas!



»» THANKS TO OUR CREATORS:



CAT Scratch Studios

“It is with gratitude that we are able to work with other outstanding resources already available and I am truly happy to share those in this set of activities with you.”

-Cary A. Thrall

