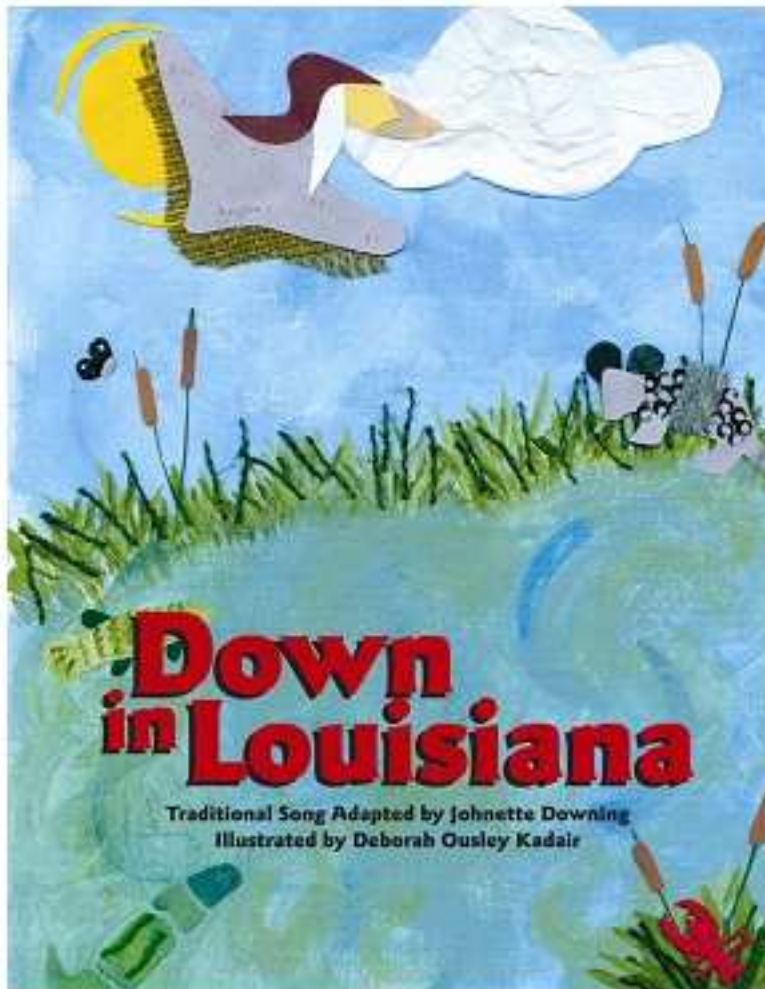


Down In Louisiana

Activity Booklet

by Johnette Downing



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Story Stretcher

Here are some ways to stretch the story beyond the book.

1. Read the story to your class.
2. Read the book again and ask the children to create the movements for the animals from each page. For example, the pelican flies; therefore, the children would make flying motions with their arms or hands.
3. Next, sing the story with the students as you turn the book pages.
4. Ask the students to count the animals on the pages.
5. How many total animals are in the book?
6. The illustrator has hidden numbers throughout the book. Ask the children to find the hidden numbers.
7. Discuss animal habitats with the students. Ask the children if they can recall some of the animal habitats in the book.
8. Several animals in the book are official state animals. For example, the pelican is the state bird, the black bear is the state bear, the Catahoula is the state dog, the alligator is the state reptile and the crawfish is the state crustacean. Review these with students.
9. Make a graph of the student's favorite animals.
10. Ask the children to create collage illustrations of their favorite animal in the book and compile them to create their own book.
11. Create a skit of the book to perform for an assembly.

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Habitat Match

Draw a line to match the animals to their habitats. Please remember that animals may live in more than one habitat.

Possum

pond

Mosquito

live oak tree

Black bear

marsh

Alligator

wetland

Crawfish

cypress tree

Catahoula dog

swamp

Nutria

basin

Pelican

bayou

Armadillo

dog house

Alligator gar

river

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State Facts

Fill in the blanks with these important Louisiana state facts.

The _____ is the Louisiana state bird.

The _____ is the Louisiana state mammal.

The _____ is the Louisiana state insect.

The _____ is the Louisiana state fish.

The _____ is the Louisiana state reptile.

The _____ is the Louisiana state crustacean.

The _____ is the Louisiana state dog.

The _____ is the Louisiana state tree.

The _____ is the Louisiana state flower.

_____ is the Louisiana state capital.

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Word Search



O D M H A N X M M K D H U
G T N U U L V W X R S A P
H G I T S Y U K R I U E Q
D Q R U K S D O F M L T V
W I Z V Q O O W H I E N N
A R P D H S A P C A E D S
O T N U A R O A C F T J K
N U L C C Q N M N X A A S
B L A C K B E A R G C A C
J A L L I G A T O R G A R
A R M A D I L L O J U C E
Z F I Y R O T A G I L L A
J O C V G X Q S F V S W E

alligator
alligator gar
armadillo
black bear
catahoula

crawfish
mosquito
nutria
pelican
possum

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Animal Math



Let's add how many animals are in the book!

1. 1 mother + 1 baby pelican. $1 + 1 =$ _____

2. 1 mother + 2 baby armadillos. $1 + 2 =$ _____

3. 1 mother + 3 black bears. $1 + 3 =$ _____

4. 1 mother + 4 alligator gars. $1 + 4 =$ _____

5. 1 mother + 5 Catahoulas. $1 + 5 =$ _____

6. 1 mother + 6 nutrias. $1 + 6 =$ _____

7. 1 mother + 7 possums. $1 + 7 =$ _____

8. 1 mother + 8 crawfish. $1 + 8 =$ _____

9. 1 mother + 9 alligators. $1 + 9 =$ _____

10. 1 mother + 10 mosquitoes. $1 + 10 =$ _____

Now let's add the totals to find out how many animals are in the book!

Grand total number of animals in the book = _____

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Action Match



The animals in the book were doing something. Draw a line to match the animals to their actions in the book.

Possum

fly

Mosquito

dig

Black bear

climb

Alligator

swim

Crawfish

bark

Catahoula dog

eat

Nutria

sleep

Pelican

snap

Armadillo

sun

Alligator gar

buzz

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Rhythm Band

Let's add some musical instruments to spice up the book. Sing the song and play the following instruments to create a soundscape for the animal actions in the book.

Instruments	Animal	Action words
Triangle	pelican	fly, flew
Guiro	armadillo	dig, dug
Rhythm sticks	black bear	climb, climbed
Tambourine	alligator gar	swim, swam
Drum	Catahoulas	bark, barked
Maracas	nutrias	eat, ate
Sand blocks	possums	sleep, slept
Spoons	crawfish	snap, snapped
Wood block	alligator	sun, sunned
Bells	mosquitoes	buzz, buzzed

Instructions:

- 1) Assign the above instruments and the animals they represent to your students.
- 2) Instruct the students to only play their instrument when their assigned animal and corresponding action word appears in the book. For example, the triangle will play only when the words "fly" and "flew" for the pelican are read or sung. The guiro will play only when the words "dig" and "dug" for the armadillo are read or sung.
- 3) Enjoy the music!

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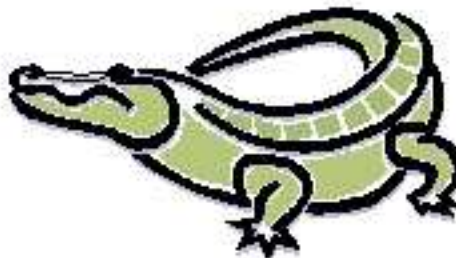
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Clip Art Animals

Cut out the animals on this page and paste them in their homes on the swamp scene page.



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Clip Art Swamp Scene



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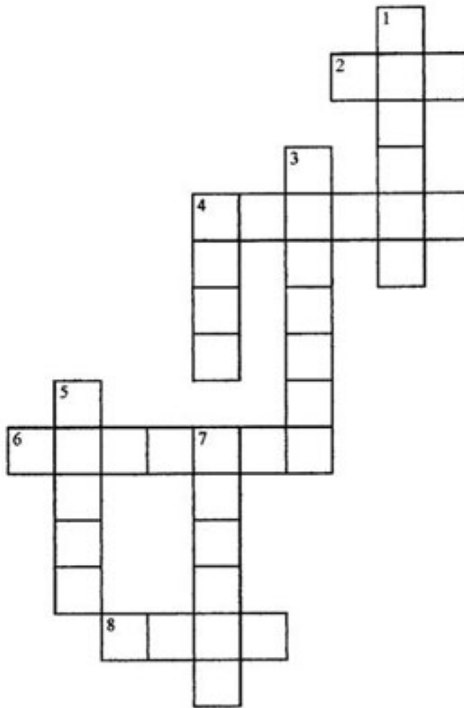
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Both present and past tenses of these action words were used in the book.
See if you can remember them by completing the puzzle!

Past And Present Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2 The past tense of dig
- 4 The past tense of sun
- 6 The past tense of climb
- 8 The past tense of fly

DOWN

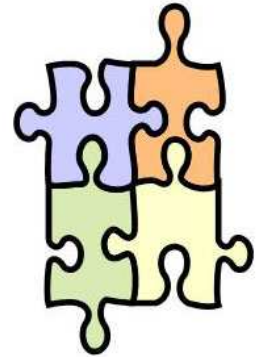
- 1 The past tense of buzz
- 3 The past tense of snap
- 4 The past tense of swim
- 5 The past tense of sleep
- 7 The past tense of bark

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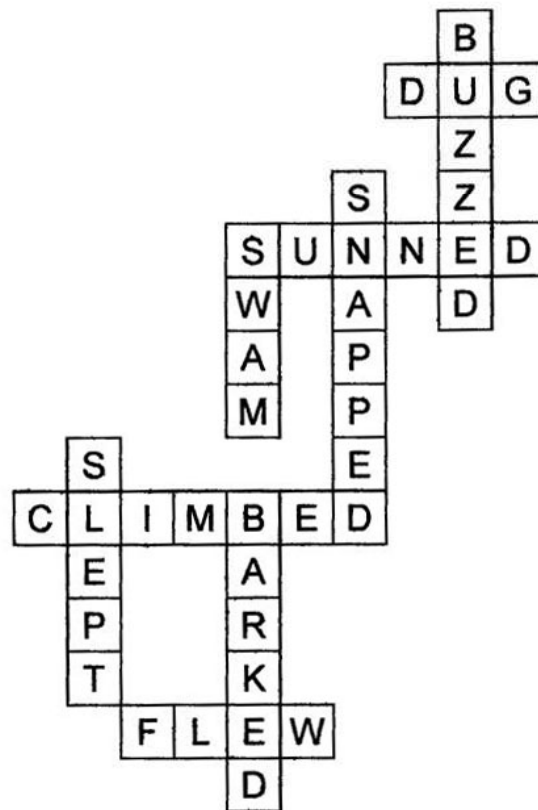
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Puzzle Solution



Past And Present Puzzle



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Visit Johnette's website to order books and CDs, to access additional resources for educators and children, or to book Johnette for an author visit, concert or workshop.

Johnette Downing
Multi-Award Winning Music and Books for Children
P.O. Box 13367
New Orleans, LA 70185-3367
Tel/Fax 504 861-2682
johnette@johnettedowning.com
www.johnettedowning.com
johnettedowning.blogspot.com

www.wigglewormrecords.com
www.twodragonflies.com