A SAFARI IS A LONG TRIP THROUGH A LARGE AND BEAUTIFUL LAND CALLED AFRICA —

a land known all over the world for its wild animals. A safari gives travelers a chance to see these animals in their natural habitats, or homes.

You are probably already familiar with many of the animals of Africa, such as gorillas, elephants, lions, and zebras. But Africa is also home to many you may never have heard of before — gnus, impalas, and kudus, to name a few.

On your safari through the newspaper, you’ll get a chance to meet these animals and more! So, come along! There’s a lot to see and do in Alphabet Safari II.
Arabi the Aardvark

Arabi (uh-RAHB-ee) the Aardvark is a strange-looking animal. He has ears like a donkey, a snout like a pig, and a long, sticky tongue. Create your own strange-looking animal using the front page of your newspaper. First, circle 10 “A”s in a story. Then make the body by drawing lines to connect the “A”s. Use crayons to add eyes, ears, a nose, and other features. Can you think of a name for your animal that begins with an “A”?

While on safari, read:
Inspector Aardvark and the Perfect Cake by Kathy Caple
Aardvark’s Picnic by Jon Higman
Babu the Baboon

Babu (BAH-boo) is one of several different kinds of baboons that live in Africa. Like the others, he is very smart. Show Babu how smart you are by circling the letter “B” eight times in your newspaper. Then cut out the largest “B” you can find and paste it below the tree where Babu sleeps.
Changa the Cheetah

Of all the animals in Africa — and the world — Changa (CHAHN-gah) the Cheetah is one of the fastest. Find out how fast you are at finding some letters on the front page of your newspaper. While your teacher times you, circle as many “Cs” as possible in a minute. When your minute is up, count the “Cs” and write the number on the tip of Changa’s tail.

While on safari, read:
Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions
by Margaret Musgrove, illustrated by Leo and Dianne Dillon
Dia the Dromedary

Dia (DEE-ah) the Dromedary is a camel, but he only has one hump. He uses it to store food for the long trips he takes across the African desert. Let’s pack some extra food for Dia’s next trip. Cut out newspaper pictures of things to eat. Paste some of them onto Dia’s picnic basket. Do any of them start with the letter “D”?

While on safari, read:
Beasties by Louise Binder Scott
Elima the Elephant

Elephants, such as Elima (ay-LEEM-ah), are the largest animals on land. Only the giraffe is taller, and no other animal has ears and teeth (tusks) as big as Elima’s and her friends’.

Some letters in the newspaper are larger than the others. Cut out four large “E”s and four small “E”s. Paste the large ones on the left side of the page and the small ones on the right.

While on safari, read:
The Great Big Elephant and the Very Small Elephant by Barbara Seuling
The Elephant’s Ball by Evelyne Johnson
Farah the Flamingo

Farah (FAIR-rah) and her flamingo friends are beautiful birds with feathers of red or pink. They also have long legs that look like stilts.

The word “Flamingo” begins with an “FL” blend, two letters that create one sound. Find some words in your newspaper that begin with “FL” or other blends. Circle them with a red or pink crayon.

While on safari, read:

*Inch by Inch* by Leo Lionni
*The Dictionary of Birds in Color* by Bruce Campbell
Gezira the Giraffe

Gezira (juh-ZEER-uh) the Giraffe lives in Africa’s grasslands. Like her friends, she uses her long neck to reach leaves and fruit up high in trees.

Find some “long” words in your newspaper — words with more than seven letters. Cut out the longest word you can find and paste it below.
While on safari, read:
Hiccup by Mercer Mayer
Oops by Mercer Mayer

Hari the Hippo

Hari (HAH-ree) the Hippopotamus is another big animal. He also has a big name. Count the letters in the word hippopotamus to see for yourself! Now cut out letters from your newspaper that spell H-I-P-P-O-P-O-T-A-M-U-S. Paste them onto Hari’s body. Can you find any more newspaper words with 12 or more letters? Circle them with a red crayon.
Imani the Impala

Impalas like Imani (ee-MAHN-ee) are African antelopes, animals that look like deer. They are fast runners and can jump high. Look through your newspaper’s sports section for pictures of people running and jumping. Then cut out words from the sports pages that begin with each of the letters in the word **I-M-P-A-L-A**.

Paste the words underneath Imani.

While on safari, read:

*Imogene’s Antlers* by David Smith
*The Midnight Farm* by Reeve Lindbergh
Jojo (JOH-joh) the Jackal is actually a dog — a wild dog. He is called a “scavenger” because he roams the land hunting for food.

Go on your own scavenger hunt through your newspaper. Find and circle eight “J”s, three “A”s, one “C,” six “K”s, a capital “A,” and five “L”s. For fun, look through your newspaper’s comics for a dog — wild or not!

While on safari, read:

- *Moja Means One: Swahili Counting Book* by Muriel Feelings, illustrated by Tom Feelings
- *I Spy: An Alphabet in Art* by Lucy Micklethwait
Kali the Kudu

Kali (KAH-lee) is a kudu, another kind of antelope that lives in the grassy parts of Africa. She eats the grass, as well as sprouts. Add some “color” to Kali’s diet. Find some different-colored foods in your newspaper’s food section. Cut them out and paste them beside the kudu. Write the letter each food begins with underneath its picture.

While on safari, read:

*The Talking Eggs*
by Robert San Souci

*Alphabeasts* by Dick King-Smith, illustrated by Quentin Blake
Luki the Lion

Called the “king of beasts,” lions like Luki (LOO-kee) are among the most famous of all animals. Their loud roars and great strength make them leaders of the animal kingdom. Look through your newspaper for pictures of our leaders — the president, the governor, and the mayor. Then cut out newspaper letters to spell the word L-E-A-D-E-R. Paste them around Luki’s crown.

While on safari, read:

Leo the Late Bloomer
by Robert Kraus, illustrated by Jose Aruego

Andy and the Lion by James Daugherty
Mona (MOH-nah) and her monkey friends are lively, playful animals. Help entertain Mona by finding newspaper pictures of people playing sports. Cut out the pictures and make a collage on a separate sheet of paper. Then cut out newspaper words that begin with the letter “M” and paste them onto Mona’s ball.

**While on safari, read:**
*Caps for Sale*  
by Esphyr Slobodkina  
*Curious George*  
by H.A. Rey
Nia of the Nile (Crocodile, that is!)

Nia (NEE-ah) is a Nile crocodile, an animal that lives near a famous African river called the Nile. Nia spends most of her time sunning herself on the river-banks. Look at your newspaper’s weather map for the symbols for sunshine. Cut them out and paste them above Nia. Now, look for some weather words in your newspaper. Share an example with the class.
Obi the Ostrich

Obi (OH-bee) the Ostrich is a bird, but like all ostriches he does not fly. Instead, his good eyesight and great speed help him escape danger. To help keep Obi safe, give him his yearly eye checkup (just like the one at your doctor’s office). On a separate sheet of paper, make a chart using big and small letters cut out of your newspaper. Put the big letters on the top and the small letters on the bottom. Give the eye check-up to your friends, too.

While on safari, read:
New Friends, True Friends,
Stuck-Like-Glue Friends
by Virginia Kroll
Paki the Porcupine

Like most animals, Paki (PAH-kee) the Porcupine has built-in protection. He has long, pointed quills that are sharp when you touch them. Look through your newspaper for pictures of other things that are sharp. Look also for pictures of things that feel soft, hard, rough, and smooth. Talk about the letters each item begins with.

While on safari, read:
Porcupine's Pajama Party
by Terry Harshman
The Porcupine by Anne Marie Dalmais
Qwara the Quail

Qwara (KWAHR-ah) the quail is a small bird found mostly in the northern part of Africa. She enjoys sitting quietly. But when she’s in danger, Qwara lets out a loud squawk and flies away. Look through your newspaper’s comics for characters that are quiet and characters that are loud. Then quietly underline newspaper words that have the letter “Q” in them. **Bonus:** What letter is “Q” always followed by (in English)?

**While on safari, read:**

*Q is for Duck* by Mary Elting and Michael Folsom
Rudi the Rhinoceros

Looking at Rudi (ROO-dee), you might think you're seeing double. But you're not! He's a type of rhinoceros that has two horns on his nose (instead of one). Look through your newspaper for examples of things that come in twos, such as shoes. Then try to make Rudi see double. Cut out newspaper letters to spell the name **R-U-D-I** — twice! Paste them in front of his picture.

While on safari, read:
*Rupert the Rhinoceros* by Carl Memling
*Rainbow Rhino* by Peter Sis
Suri the Serval

Suri (SOOR-ee) the Serval has a head like a cat you might have for a pet. But his spotted body sets him apart. Count the spots on Suri and write the number on the line. Then look for some “S” words in your newspaper. Paste them in the space below.

While on safari, read:
Catastrophe Cat at the Zoo by Dennis Panek
Terence the Tortoise

Terence (TEHR-uhn) is a tortoise, a type of turtle that lives only on land. To protect himself, Terence hides inside his own special “house” — a hard, dome-shaped shell. Give Terence’s “house” a new look. Find newspaper pictures of things you might find inside a house. Make a collage on Terence’s shell. Beside each item, write the letter it begins with.

While on safari, read:
The Tortoise and the Tree by Janina Domanska
A House is a House for Me by Mary Ann Hoberman
Usutu the Gnu

Usutu (oo-SOO-too) the Gnu (nu) is an animal with a funny name — two of them, in fact. This very fast animal is also called a wildebeest. Look through your newspaper’s comics for characters with funny names. Then create your own comic character by pasting the head of one comic-strip character onto the body of another. Paste your creature alongside Usutu. Be sure to give it a funny name!

While on safari, read:
- *If I Ran the Zoo* by Dr. Seuss
- *The Alphabet Tale* by Jan Garten, illustrated by Muriel Batherman
Vezo (VEH-zoh) the Vulture is a large bird that lives in the open country. He has excellent eyesight and can spot his prey from far away. Help Vezo spot the “V”s in your newspaper. Circle as many of them as you can find. Then cut out five of the “V”s and paste them below.

While on safari, read:
*Why the Sky is Far Away: A Nigerian Folktale* retold by Mary-Joan Gerson
*Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing* by Judith Barrett, illustrated by Ron Barrett
A warthog like Walda (WAHL-dah) is a large African pig named for the “warts” on her head. She lives in the forest, where she can easily hide from danger. Pretend some words are hiding in your newspaper. Find six words that begin with the letter “W.” Cut them out and “hide” them in the thicket with Walda.

While on safari, read:
- How Animals Hide by Robert M. McClung
- Anansi and the Talking Melon by Eric A. Kimmel
Xetsa the Ibex

Xetsa (heht-SAH) the Ibex is a wild goat that lives in Africa. Like cows, goats give milk. Find an advertisement for milk in the newspaper and paste it below. How many glasses of milk do you drink a day? Find and circle that many “X”s (or more!) in the newspaper.

While on safari, read:
How Animals Care for Their Babies by Roger Hirschland
Alphabet Animals by Charles Sullivan
Yahya the Hyena

Yahya (YAH-yah) is an animal famous for its howl — a weird sound that resembles a human laugh. Give Yahya the Hyena something to really howl about. Cut out five funny characters from the newspaper comic strips and paste them below. For each character, make up a funny name that begins with “Y.”

There's nothing like a good laugh!

While on safari, read:

*Animal Clowns* by Jane R. McGoldrick
*Useful Objects Chinye: A West African Folk Tale* by Obi Onyefulu
Zebras like Zili (ZEE-lee) are striped animals that have the shape of a horse. Many items in your newspaper are shaped like other things — a circle, a square, a rectangle, and a diamond. Find examples of these shapes, then cut them out and make a collage. Can you find a picture of something striped? Cut it out and paste it next to Zili. Then help Zili replace his missing stripes by drawing some new ones.

While on safari, read:

*Color Zoo* by Lois Ehlert
*Greddy Zebra* by Mwenye Hadithi
Dear Teachers:

The newspaper offers you a unique opportunity to motivate your students. Language development, reading, math, and current events are just a few of the areas that can be taught by using the newspaper.

The activities in this section were written for the very young primary student. As always, they can be adapted to fit individual and classroom needs. Children of all ages will enjoy coloring the lively black and white illustrations on each page.

To make your Newspaper in Education experience an enjoyable one, consider these suggestions:

• Give children plenty of space when using the newspaper. They can sit at tables or on the floor.
• Separate sections of the newspaper. Give children only the sections they will be using. Consider stapling the folded edge of each section for easier handling.
• Some activities will call for glue, scissors, a pencil, and crayons. If you plan to use the section over a period of days, you might want to have the children use tape for cut-and-paste activities to prevent pages from sticking together.

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Resources:
Newspaper Alphabet Animal Safari by Sylvia Smith and Carrie Allen
World Book Encyclopedia
African Names by Julia Stewart

Each animal in Alphabet Safari II has an African name. According to the book, African Names by Julia Stewart, there are many African traditions that influence the naming of children. Many are named for the time or day they were born, such as daytime or market day. Others are named for major events occurring at the time of birth. Regardless, the African names are rich in tradition and have many wonderful meanings.