

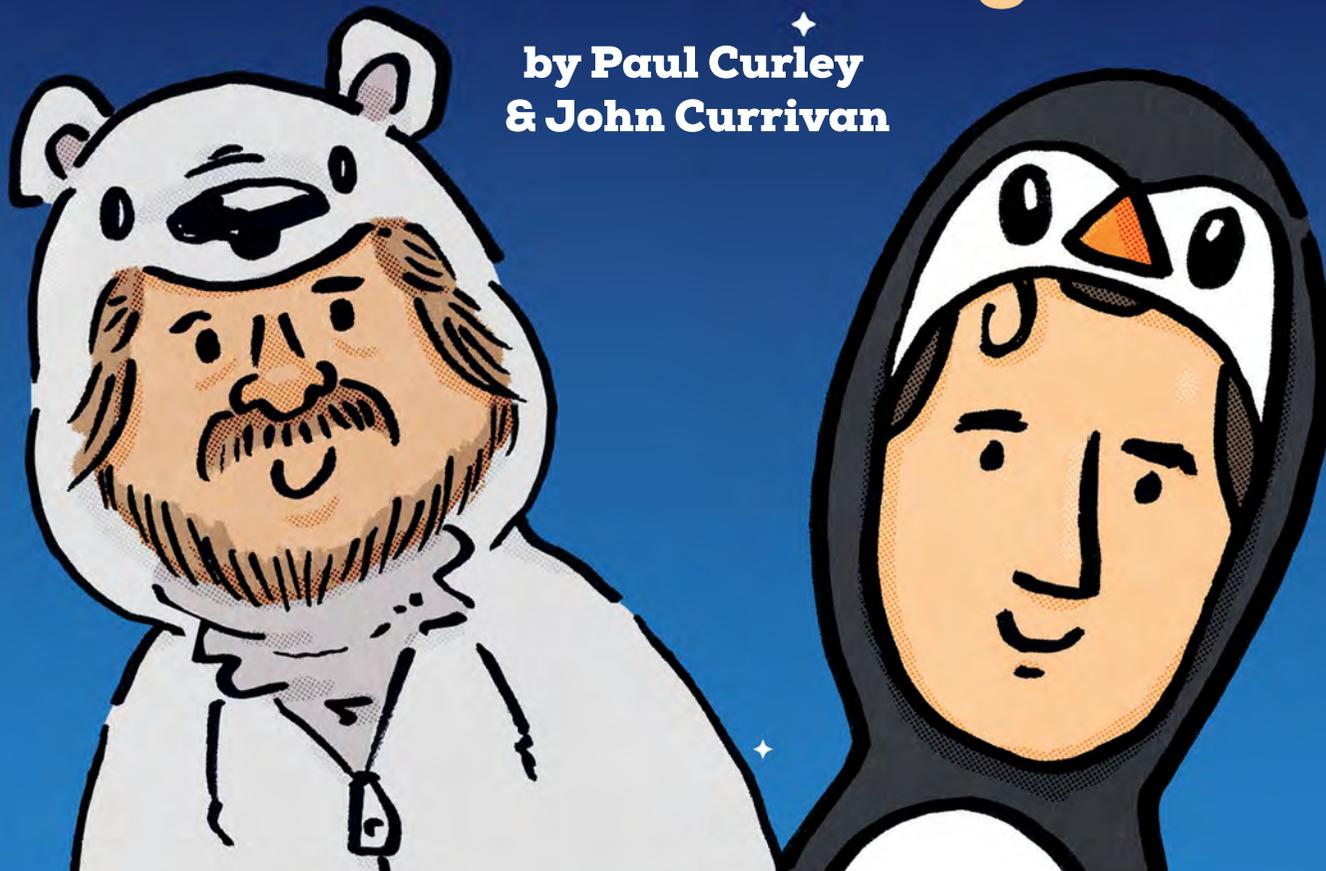


The Ark

The Ark welcomes

Polar Bear & Penguin

by Paul Curley
& John Currivan



THEATRE

5+

AGES

Classroom Activity Pack

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A complementary teacher's resource to accompany The Ark's production of *Polar Bear and Penguin* written and performed by John Currivan & Paul Curley.

Subject areas explored in this pack: Literacy - Oral Language, SESE - Geography, SPHE - Myself and the Wider World

Written by Joanna Parkes

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About this Pack:

This classroom activity pack has been written as a complementary resource for teachers attending with their class a performance of *Polar Bear and Penguin* at The Ark.

Purpose of this Education Pack

- To provide opportunities for children, as audience members, to review and evaluate their responses and reactions to a theatrical event.

- To encourage the children to make a deeper connection to the idea of unlikely friends who meet up and help each other out, despite being very different.
- To encourage the children to become creators, inventors and storytellers themselves.
- To use the play as a stimulus to encourage the children to become more aware of the environment and our impact on the world around us.

How to use this pack:

The show is aimed at children aged 5+ so the content described here provides a range of activities suitable for this age group. However, all the ideas given can be adapted depending on the age and ability of the particular class group.

The pack begins with some reflective and warm-up activities. Once these are completed you may wish to use the different activities to structure full lesson plans or pick and choose individual activities as you see fit.

The activities described can be linked to the Primary Curriculum:

- Literary Oral Language – Developing communicative relationships through language and Exploring and using Language,
- SESE – Geography – Natural environments,
- SPHE – Myself and the Wider World- Developing citizenship.

We hope you enjoy using this pack and find it useful. If you would like to share any feedback or images with us, we'd be delighted to hear from you at TheArkDublin@gmail.com



Section 1: Recalling and Remembering the play

Class Discussion

Ask the class what they remember from the play:

- What do you remember about the 2 characters in the play?
 - What was your favourite moment?
 - Where there any funny moments?
 - Where there any sad moments?
 - Where there any scary moments?
-
- Their Differences: When the Polar Bear and Penguin first met, they talked about their differences. What did you notice? What makes them different? What did they say about each other?
 - Polar Bear said, “I’m bigger and stronger.”
 - Penguin said, “I’m faster and smarter.”
 - Polar Bear said, “I have long teeth and strong claws.”

Penguin said, "I have a sharp beak and big belly."

- Their Similarities: Are there any similarities between the two characters? What do they have in common? For example, they both love to eat fish, both live on an iceberg, both live in a cold place, live near the sea, live by themselves, and like to sing and dance. Anything else?
- Penguin's jokes - Penguin liked to tell jokes - can you remember the punchlines?
What does the sea do when it sees his friends? It waves!
What did one eye say to the other? Between you and me something smells!
What kind of room has no doors? A mushroom!
Why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7, 8, 9! (seven ate nine)

Think - Pair - Share - Did Polar Bear and Penguin change during the play?

Ask the class to think about the following questions on their own, then in pairs and share their responses.

- What did Polar Bear and Penguin think of each other at the start of the play?
- Did that change at different times in the play?
- What do you think they thought of each other at the end of the play?
- Do you think they will see each other again?

Section 2: Unlikely Friends

Even though the Polar Bear and Penguin are very different and don't trust each other at the start of the play, they become friends and help each other out. How did they help each other?

Tell the class that in real life in the natural world a polar bear and penguin could never actually meet. Ask if they know why they couldn't meet? (A globe could be useful here). Polar Bears live in cold countries at the north of the world, the Arctic. Penguins live in cold places at the south of the world, Antarctica. If we look at the globe we can see it would be impossible for them to meet in real life, but in a story or a play anything can happen so a polar bear and penguin can meet, become friends and help each other.

What other unlikely animals might become friends?

The Lion and the Mouse

This is a version of a famous Aesop's Fable about a little mouse who becomes a great help to a proud lion. Read this story out to the class with the two different endings and see if they can think of other endings.

Once there was a very proud lion who thought he was better than all the other animals in the Savannah, so all the other animals kept out of his way. One day, when he was dozing in the sun, he felt something run over his paw.

“Hey, who is running over my paw?” he shouted as closed his huge paw and caught a tiny little timid mouse. “Oh, I’m so sorry, your Majesty Mr Lion,” squeaked the little mouse.

“A little mouse!” said the lion, “how dare you wake me up! I am going to eat you as a mid-morning snack”. “Please don’t eat me, your Majesty Mr Lion. One day I might be able to help you,” said the mouse. The lion thought this was funny and started to laugh.

“Oh, that’s very funny, you’re just a teeny, tiny, little mouse. How could you help me, the greatest, strongest, bravest of all animals? Don’t be ridiculous! You could never help me. But you’ve given me a big laugh, so I’ll let you go.”

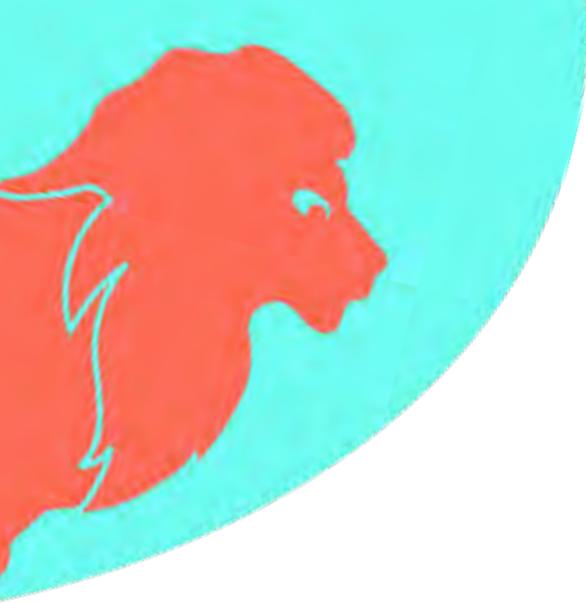
As the mouse ran away, he said “Wait and see, one day I might be able to help you.”

There are two different endings to this story:

Version 1:

A few days later, the lion got caught up in a hunter’s net. The more he struggled to get free, the tighter the net became. He was so angry and frustrated that he let out a mighty roar. The mouse heard his roar and came running up and started nibbling at the net as fast as he could. Before long, the lion was free.

“There you go, your majesty,” said the little mouse. “Now you see that even a little mouse can help a mighty lion”.



“Thank you, little mouse,” said the lion. “You have saved my life. I will never dismiss another animal again.”

Version 2:

One day, when the lion was walking under a tree, he got a large thorn in his paw. However much he tried, he couldn't get the thorn out. The more he tried to walk, the more painful his paw became.

“Oh no,” he said, “if I can't walk, then I can't run and I'll never be able to catch any prey so I won't be able to eat. What am I going to do?”

The lion started to roar in pain and frustration. The little mouse bravely crept up to the lion.

“Hold still your Majesty,” said the mouse, and he very slowly and carefully removed the thorn from the lion's big paw.

“There you go, your majesty,” said the little mouse. “Now you see that even a little mouse can help a mighty lion.”

“Thank you, little mouse” said the lion “You have saved my life. I will never dismiss another animal again.”

The Moral of the story - anyone can be helpful no matter how small and a kindness is never wasted.



Think, Pair, Share - Your Turn - How could the Mouse help the Lion?

Ask the class if they can think of anything else the little mouse could do to help the lion.

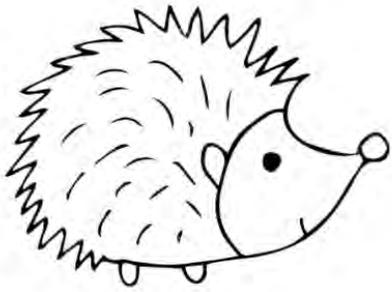
Encourage them to share their ideas with their neighbour and then share their suggestions with the class.

The following suggestions have been given previously:

- Itching an itch on the back of the lion's neck
- Untangling the lion's mane
- 'Carefully' cleaning the lion's teeth (that would take a very brave and trusting mouse!)
- Taking brambles out of the lion's tail
- Brushing the lion's hair
- Scratching the lion's ear.

Drawing Activity: Ask the class if they would like to draw a picture showing what the little mouse could do to help the proud lion or draw a special thank you card from the lion to the mouse.

Storytelling Activity: What other unlikely animals help each other and become friends? Tell the children it is their turn to become storytellers. In pairs or small groups, ask if they can invent some imaginative and creative ways the following animals could help each other.



Could...

an owl help a...

monkey

an elephant help an...

octopus

a hedgehog help a...

kangaroo

a whale help a...

tortoise

a lizard help a...

squirrel?



Now try creating your own other combinations or any other two animals.

See attached picture cards of the suggested animals in Appendix 1.

The Unlikely Friends Game:

Print a couple of sets of the ten animal pictures in Appendix 1, laminate and cut out each animal picture. In small groups ask the children to put the animal cards face down on the desk. Suggest they turn over two of the cards. Then, the children must see how quickly they can come up with ideas of how the two animals can help each other.

Section 3: Environment Awareness

The Melting Icecaps

In the play, the Polar Bear and Penguin are getting worried because the ice is melting around them and they don't know why. They are concerned about changes in their environment which is affecting their daily lives.

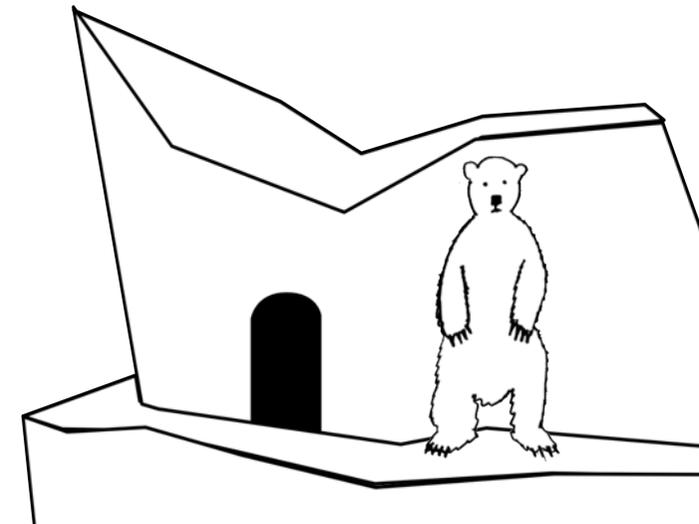
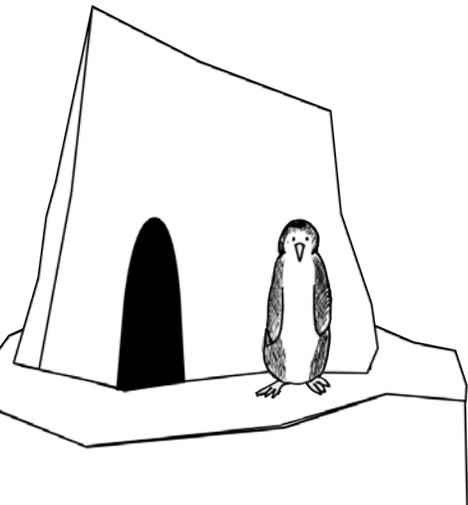
Tell the class that we all need to be more aware of how our actions can have an impact on the world around us. There are three more accompanying appendices to this Activity Pack which can be used to encourage the children to become more environmentally aware:

Appendix 2: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Appendix 3: Conserving Water

Appendix 4: Energy - Powering our Lives

These appendices include quiz questions and activities which can be used to explore these different aspects of Environmental Awareness.



What can you do?

Ask the children to think of one thing they could do to look after the world around them and to draw a poster sharing this idea with others.

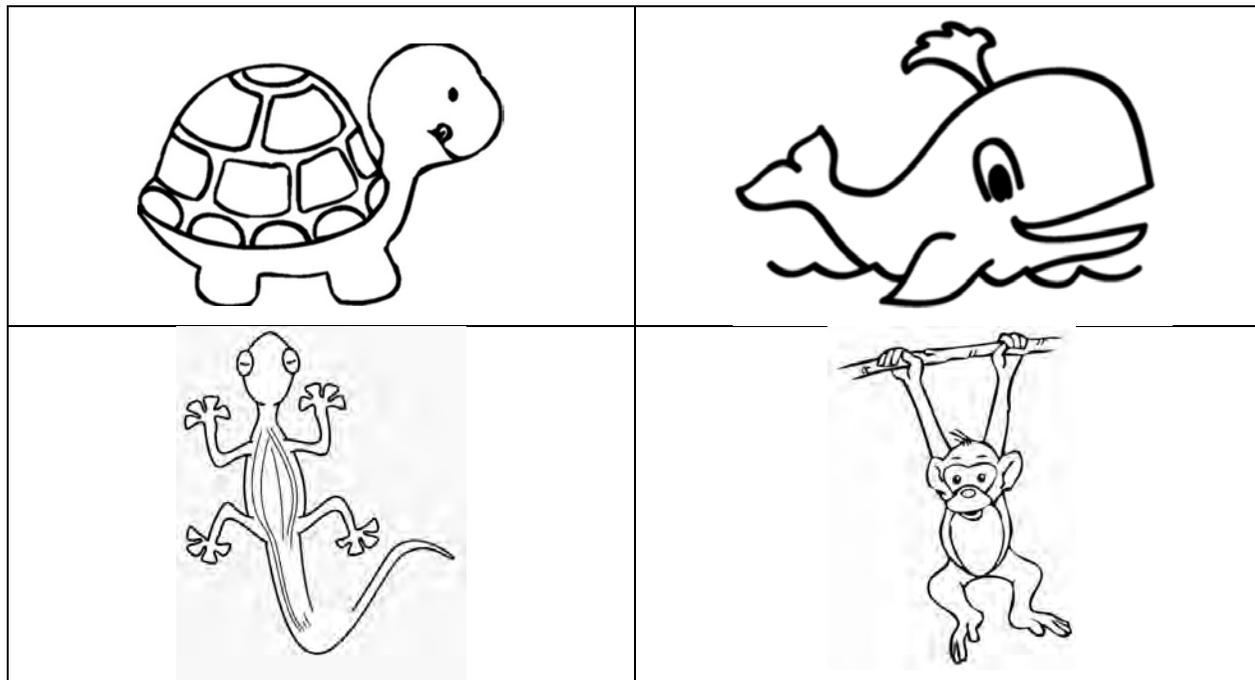
A few ideas:

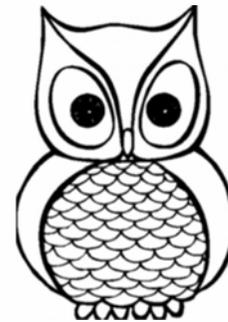
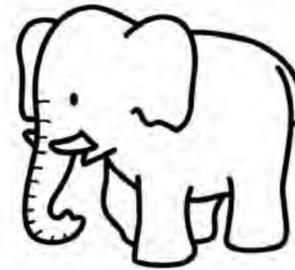
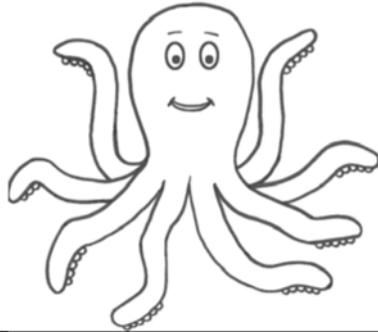
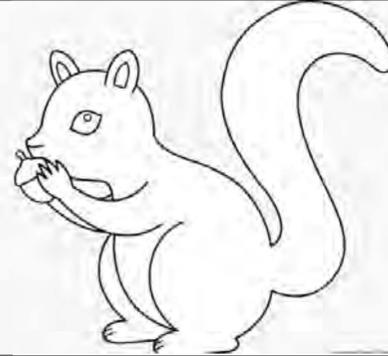
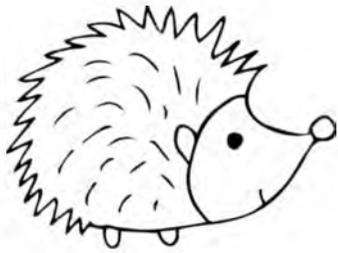
- Look after your toys and when you have finished playing with them and pass them on to someone else to play with.
- Switch off lights and devices when you are not using them.
- Re-cycle as much as you can – remember clean dry paper, tins, cans, plastic pots and bottles can be recycled.
- Use recycled materials for drawing, painting, art and craft activities.
- Switch off the tap when you are brushing your teeth – if we all make small changes it can make a big difference.

Appendix 1

Unlikely Friends - Animal Cards - How could these animals help each other?

A tortoise, a whale, a lizard, a monkey, a hedgehog, a squirrel, an octopus, an elephant, a kangaroo and owl.





Appendix 2: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Click [here](#) to view as pdf

Click [here](#) to download as Powerpoint presentation

Appendix 3: Conserving Water

Click [here](#) to view as pdf

Click [here](#) to download as Powerpoint presentation

Appendix 4: Energy – Powering Our Lives

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