

Activity

The Story of the Little Duck's Little Adventure

Little Duck was a duckling and he liked to go on adventures. One day he decided to leave his nest in the reeds and cross the river to see what was on the other side. When he didn't come home for lunch, Mother Duck became worried and went to find him. But he was nowhere to be seen.

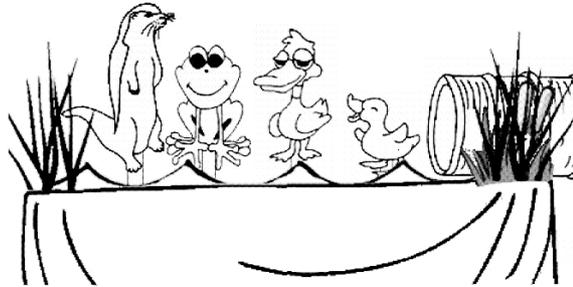
Otter, who was sitting in his holt by the side of the river, saw the very upset Mother Duck and went to see what was wrong. "What's the matter Mother Duck?" said the Otter. "My little duckling is missing!" said Mother Duck. Otter quickly swam to Frog, who was sitting on a lily pad, and asked her to help find Little Duck. Frog, Otter and Mother Duck searched high and low but could not find Little Duck.

Suddenly Otter heard a squeak coming from a large barrel floating in the river. Could Little Duck be inside? Otter had a look and there, huddled in the back of the barrel, was a frightened Little Duck. While exploring the other side of the river he had come upon the barrel and being curious, decided to have a look inside. It was very dark and he was very frightened - too frightened to find his way out again.

Little Duck was happy to be back with his mother and both mother and duckling were thankful to their friends Otter and Frog for coming to their rescue.

In time, Little Duck continued to explore the river but, from then on, he was just a little more careful!

Play Acting!

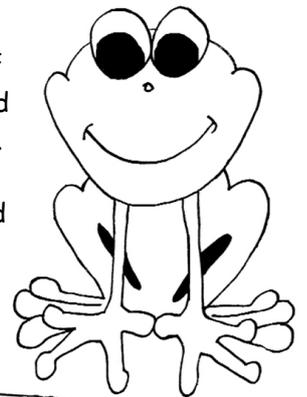


Photocopy, cut out and colour in the pictures below Attach each one to a stick using tape, creating puppets for performing in a play.



Here is a chance to act out a story with your friends and to take part in "Little Duck's Little Adventure".

Construct a stage using a covered table. Draw waves on some card and attach them to the edge of the table, as well as reeds or twigs on either side to give the impression of a river and its banks. Read aloud "The Story of the Little Duck's Little Adventure" to you and your friends to familiarise yourselves with it. Assign a "character" to each person. You, a parent or teacher, could read the story aloud again, with you all act out the parts, or you could write a new story using these characters - better still draw characters of your own!



This activity highlights some of the animals that live on a river. It encourages children to think about these animals and how changes to the river's environment will have an effect on their lives. The activity is taken from Water Worksheet 1, produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station for the Environmental Awareness & Research Unit, Cork County Council under the Local Agenda 21 Partnership Fund, to support the Green School programme. All water worksheets are available on www.corkcoco.ie > Environment > Environmental Awareness > Youth > Latest Publications.

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