

FIND THE ANIMAL

*By Penny Reeve
Illustrations by Roger De Klerk
Christian Focus Publications*

Teachers Notes

**for early childhood classes
(Ages of 4-7).**

God Made Something
Beautiful,
God Made Something
Clever,
God Made Something
Quick,
and
God Made Something
Strong.

Series Summary:

The four Find The Animal titles are easy to read non-fiction picture books. Each book follows the 'adventure' taken by two children as they search for an animal God has made. By learning about this animal the children in the books, and their readers learn something about God's character. In *God Made Something Beautiful* the



children are searching for a peacock, they discover that God is so beautiful he is perfect. In *God Made Something Quick* the children follow a lizard and learn that although a lizard is quick, God is everywhere at once. In *God Made Something Clever* the children follow the trail of a dog and are reminded that God knows everything about us. In *God Made Something Strong* the elephant highlights the strength of our Great God.

The format and content of these books lend themselves easily to use in the early childhood classroom. They can be used as resources in any number of themed units including: the alphabet (Dd, Ee, Ll and Pp), animals and their environments, excursions, safe play etc.

Activities in Literacy:

Reading.

- There are several levels of text in each book. In *guided* or *independent* reading the text prompts students to study the illustrations, linking visual literacy with the written text.
- Use the clearly printed texts to locate and practice a list of high frequency words. See black-line masters for the Find The Animal FlashCards.

Writing.

- Use the Find The Animal Story Starter black-line resource to get students writing their own story. Discuss first which animal they will choose and which attribute will they focus on. Eg: Story heading “God Made Something Fluffy” with the text: “It has a long tail. It has pointy ears. It purrs.” Students then ask each other to guess what animal they are hunting for.

Mathematics Activities:

- Students can be encouraged to count the various items as suggested by the text, taking care not to recount objects.
- Spend time discussing size graduations using comparative language like: bigger, smaller, longer, taller. Example from God Made Something Strong: “Is the parrot bigger or smaller than the elephant?”
- Using either the Find The Animal Jungle Background (see black-line resources), or their own jungle illustration, students draw a number of animals of their choice and prepare counting questions for their peers to answer. This activity could be adapted for a whole class big book activity.

Health and Physical Education:

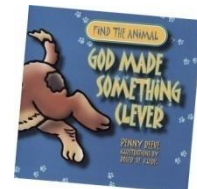
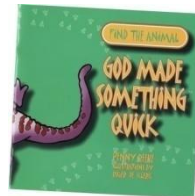
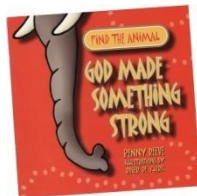
- Plan an animal adventure within or beyond the school grounds. Consider how the children in the books planned for their adventures use this as the basis for a discussion on how to plan the class outing. Sample questions: What should we take with us? Are there any dangers to consider? What about sun safety? What did the children in the book do that we probably can't do?
- Use the illustrations to stimulate a discussion on feelings. “How would you feel if you were splashed with water?” “What if something suddenly licked you from out of a tree?” Reinforce that our body reacts to situations and this is a helpful thing. Make a list of the feelings illustrated. Eg. hungry, surprised, frightened.

Creative Arts Activities:

- Dance – using appropriate music have students improvise movements to match each book, eg elephant, lizard.
- Music – using a variety of percussion instruments encourage groups of students to come up with a sound that suits the animal allocated. Sample questions: “What sort of sound would an elephant make? Soft tinkly noises? Loud drumming noises? What about a peacock?”
- Art – make collages of the animal chosen using different coloured and textured papers to fill in the space. This would work really well with the peacock as you can use many and varied special papers for the plume feathers.
- Drama – play a charade game where students choose the name or picture of an animal from a hat and then make that animal’s actions. Other students guess attempt to guess the animal correctly. Sound effects can also be used.

Faith Building:

- Facilitate a discussion around how intimately God knows us, and the special talents he has given each person. Make a display with each child’s photograph attached to a unique and special characteristic about themselves.
- These books highlight the characteristics of God by looking at his creation. Have a discussion about the wonderful characteristics God has. Children chose their favourite characteristic and write it on a coloured star which is then attached to a poster with the words “Our Great God is...” in the centre.



Reproducible Worksheets:

- Find The Animal Jungle Background for counting activities.
- Find The Animal FlashCards for reading activities and games.
- Find The Animal Story Starter to guide students’ writing.

These teachers’ notes may be copied for school or home use.

Please do not copy them for commercial sale.

Find The Animal Jungle Background

Hide some animals in the jungle.



Write some counting questions here for your friends to answer.

How many _____ can you see? _____.

_____.

_____.

Find The Animal FlashCards

go	on	an
it	is	will
God	has	can
you	eye	foot
what	that	This
find	was	How
who	our	great
many	made	quick
animal	strong	clever
adventure	something	beautiful

Find The Animal Story Starter

Let's go on an adventure, what will we find?

It is something that God has made.

It is something_____.

It has _____



Draw your animal here.