

# Lockdown Tales Activities



## Henny Penny

Folktale

Read for Wonderful Beast's Lockdown Tales by Petra Markham.



### Stories that are the same, but different.

This **folktale** is **very old** and there are many versions **all over the world**. The American one is called 'Chicken Licken'. In the English version Petra tells, a fox invites the animals to its den, then kills them all except for Henny Penny, who escapes but never gets to tell the King 'the sky is a-falling'.

There is a version with a **slightly different ending**, where instead of **running away in fear** when she hears Cocky Locky's cry, Henny Penny thinks that his *cock-a-doodle-doo* means it must be dawn, and time for her to lay an egg.

She turns and **bustles off to her nest**, but still never tells the king the sky is falling. In other versions all the animals are rescued and finally DO speak to the king. And one tells of a chicken believing the sky has fallen in when an ACORN lands on his head! Can **you** think of any other stories you know that tell **the same tale, but in a different way**?

### Movement and Sound Activity

Create your own **movement belonging to each animal** in the story of Henny Penny. Add a **vocal sound** to go with it. Ducky Daddles would be very different from Foxy Loxy.

Get someone to **call out the name** of one of the animals.

You **turn into that character**, take four steps across the room, and freeze.

Then, they **shout out another character** and when you unfreeze, you **become the new one**.

You could switch roles and see if you both think of the same movements, or choose a different way of being that character.

*Variations of this can be done in school:*

- 1) in **groups of 6** children, each child enacts one of the 6 characters so they are all represented, with a movement and sound as above.
- 2) form a **tableau**: in silence, one child after another moves into a delineated space (the 'picture frame') as one of the animals of their choice, and freezes. Soon you will have a silent farmyard of creatures. On a signal, all make their particular sound. You can do this with half the class at a time, one half creates the tableau, the other watches, then swap over.

Send us your creations! Use the hashtag **#LockdownTales** or email [info@wonderfulbeast.co.uk](mailto:info@wonderfulbeast.co.uk)  
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### New versions of the same story

1. Invent a **different ending** so that all the animals manage to **escape** Foxy Woxy. How will they escape? Do they ever get to tell the king 'the sky is a-falling'?
2. In a group, get someone to **start the story off**, with maybe one sentence, and then **pass it on**, like **pass the parcel**, so that everyone has a turn at helping to **build another version** of the story, sentence by sentence.

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### Rhyming

All the characters in the story have funny rhyming names: Henny Penny, Cocky Locky, Ducky Daddles, Goosey Poosey, Turkey Lurkey and Foxy Loxy.

**Invent rhyming names** for all the real-life animals, birds and creatures you can think of. Make a list. See if you can **memorize at least six** of them and invent **a story** about them somehow coming together to have an adventure.

Does this story remind you of another one about a donkey, a dog, a cat and a cockerel? See if you can find it in Lockdown Tales. Here 's a clue - it's about some musicians in a town called Bremen...

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### Puppetry

Make a **puppet** of each character in Henny-Penny and tell the story to your family or a friend. You will need card, pencil, scissors, coloured pens, lolly sticks and glue. Or maybe you could find an old sock and stitch buttons and bits of fabric to it.

*This could also be done as a class activity.*

**Name your puppets, and ask an adult to send photos to Wonderful Beast at the email address below. We will put them on our website!**

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Here is a link to the story text:

<https://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/eng/eft/eft21.htm>

**The moral of the story:** the fable can be understood as a warning **not to believe everything you are told!**

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