

Lockdown Tales Activities



How the Beetle Got its Colours

Folktale

Performed for Wonderful Beast's Lockdown Tales by Alfie Enoch.



Stories of how things came to be

People have always made up stories of how things came to be. This beautiful story of how the beetle got its colours (which you might already know are Brazil's football colours) is one of many folktales from all over the world that tell how animals came to look as they do.

You might know the CBeebies series *Tinga Tinga*, which tells these sorts of stories, like how the giraffe got a long neck. And an English writer called Rudyard Kipling wrote lots of these tales, called *Just So Stories*, including 'How the Camel Got His Hump' and 'How the Leopard Got His Spots'.

Join in the storytelling

Do you have an animal of your own, or one that lives in your house? If you don't, maybe there is a pet you know that belongs to a friend or family member.

Write or tell a story about how your cat got its whiskers, or your dog got its bark, or why your guinea-pig likes lettuce.

You could make your story about a wild animal instead, if you prefer - how the frog got its leap, or how the parrot could speak ... your story can be as imaginative and as silly as you like.

Or become a poet...

First, make up some **verses** which could start with '*I wonder how*'...

*I wonder how:
The frog got its leap
The crab got its claws
The monkey got its tail...*

Then think of some answers that rhyme, and before you know it, you'll have a poem:

*I wonder how
The frog got its leap?
The frog leapt high
From a fright in the night...*

*I wonder how
The crab got its claws
The crab swapped claws
For silky soft paws...*

*I wonder how
The monkey got its tail?
The monkey bought its tail
In a jumble sale...*

Send us your drumming! Use the hashtag **#LockdownTales** or email info@wonderfulbeast.co.uk
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Moving and Speaking

Become little brown beetle, moving **slowly** with **small** steps.

Then show your **wings slowly opening** then **fly away** to the finishing line.

The beetle is always **very** polite. How would she **speak** to Rat?
Say, in your very most polite voice: 'You are surely a very fast runner', and then to the green and gold Parrot 'I would like a beautiful bright-coloured coat, please'.

Rat is very fast with **scurrying little steps**.

Can you run, stop, sniff and test the air with your **whiskers**, and start off again?

Do this a few times over. Which is your favourite step?

Try **laughing heartily** like Rat, saying:

'Why, you talk as though you think you have a chance to win the race!'

Another story about a race is 'The Tortoise and the Hare' from **Aesop's Fables**.

The poet **Adrian Mitchell** was inspired by this tale, and wrote a poem about it called *Who Won?*

You can find it and lots of other wonderful poems in his collection

Umpteen Pockets (Orchard Books).

Here is an example of how Adrian sees Hare.

*As the Hare struts around to that funky sound
All the animals give him room
And he shouts 'I'm the fastest creature on earth -
King of Zing and Czar of Zoom!'*

Can you be **Hare** and say these lines in a **boastful** way as you **strut** around?

Hare has **very long legs** so his steps will be much **BIGGER** than Rat's. Let's see those knees high in the air. He **runs so fast** that he has to rest. Count **10 fast steps** and then **flop down and rest**, with closed eyes, for a count of 10. You could get someone else to play Tortoise and see who wins.

How does **Tortoise** move? Show his **slow plodding** steps. He is **HEAVIER** than your beetle. Now say 'Good morning Mr Hare, how are you today?' in a tortoise voice. It will be **deeper** than Beetle's.

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