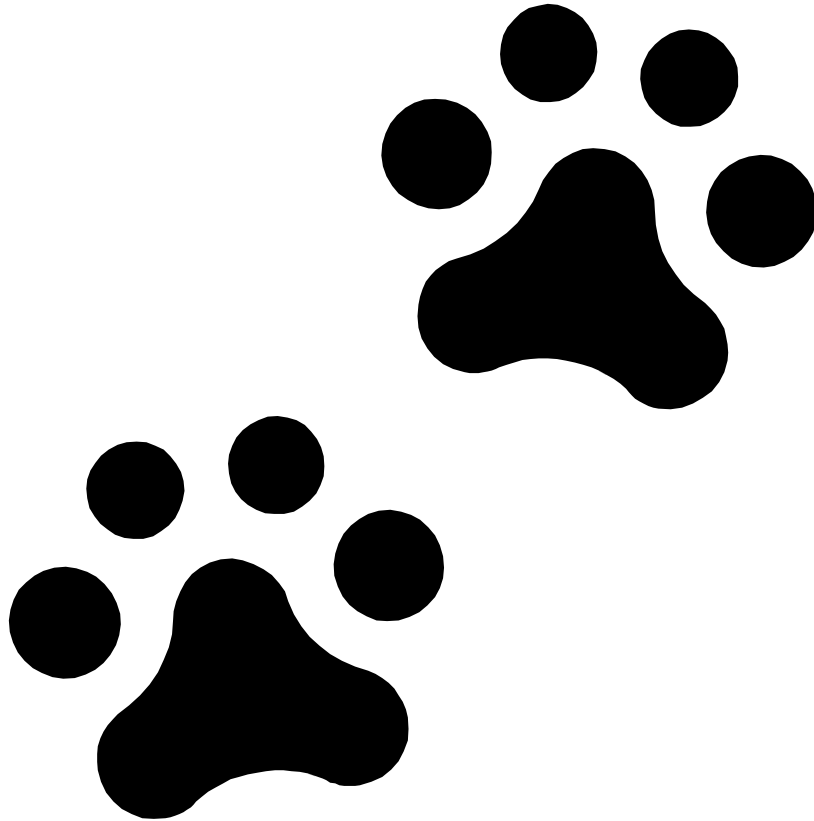


games



lion
simba

The following games are for you (the leader) to pick and choose from to suit the parameters of your group. There are high and low energy games, as well as indoor and outdoor games. Further, all of these options are suitable for both large and small groups.

Escape the Lions!

A fun, active game introducing children to Swahili words and Kenyan animals.

Object: For the “mtu” (people) to capture the “simbas” (lions’) treasure.

Materials: 4 blindfolds; beanbags (the treasure)

Directions: Ask the children to form a large circle. From the group, select up to 4 children to play the lions. The lions are brought to the centre of the circle and blindfolded. Next, place the beanbags on the ground around the lions. The remaining children now try to sneak up and steal a beanbag without getting captured by a lion. If they succeed in capturing a beanbag, they become a lion in the next game. If they are captured, they are out and return to their place in the circle and wait until the game is done.

Safari

A great low-energy game introducing children to some of Kenya’s amazing animals.

Object: For “it” to get out of the centre of the circle, and join the others.

Materials: None

Directions: Each child chooses a Kenyan animal. The children form a circle, and one person is selected to be “it.” “It” sits in the centre of the circle (this person does not need an animal name). “It” has to say an animal name 3 times before the person who is that animal says the animal name (i.e. “elephant, elephant, elephant” before the child who is elephant says “elephant”). If “it” is able to do so, he/she changes places with the child who’s animal he/she said. If “it” is unsuccessful, he/she continues on with another animal name.

Kenyan Animals: zebra, camel, egret, ostrich, lion, elephant, leopard, (Cape) buffalo, rhino, giraffe, hippo, baboon, monkey, wildebeast, warthog, antelope, gazelle, pelican, cheetah, impala, aardvark, chimpanzee, deer, donkey, goat, hyena, peacock, python, snake, wild boar, wild dog, etc.

Elephant Stampede

Elephants are one of Kenya’s largest animals. When startled, elephants are known to stampede – to run as a group to get away from what has scared them. This game mimics an elephant stampede, bringing this to life for the children.

Object: To not get captured in the elephant stampede.

Materials: Large playing field

Directions: Two children are selected to be the elephants, or “it.” The rest of the children run, and the game of tag is played. Whenever another child is captured by “it,” they join “it” by linking arms (i.e. at elbows, holding hands, etc.). As “it” continues to capture people, “it” continues to grow larger (that is, the elephant stampede becomes larger). The last two children not captured by “it” become the elephants (“it”) in the next game.

Tembo, Kiboko, Twiga (or Elephant, Hippo, Giraffe)

A fun mid-energy game introducing children to three Swahili words for three of Kenya’s largest animals: elephant, hippo and giraffe.

Object: To stay out of the circle (to not be “it”). This is a great way to introduce children to some Swahili words for Kenyan animals.

Materials: None

Directions: The children form a large circle. One child is selected to be it and sits in the centre of the circle. “It” then says either Tembo, Kiboko or Twiga and points to a child in the circle. The child who was pointed to, and the child to their left/right then have to act out the animals in order. Note, if the children in the circle do not get organized and do their actions in 5-10 seconds, the child that was pointed to goes to the centre.

Animal Actions:

Tembo – arm out in front of face to make the elephant’s long nose

Kiboko – palms together (as in prayer) and placed up on forehead to make the rhino’s horn

Twiga – both arms outstretched high above head, making the giraffes long neck

Fix the Reserve

Due to poaching and the fact that many Kenyan animals have been placed on the endangered list, Kenya is now home to a variety of wildlife reserves. This game is a great way to introduce children to the concepts of extinction, animal endangerment, poaching and what can be done to help save God’s creation.

Object: For the children to find their animal pair.

Materials: None

Directions: Split the group of children into two equal teams. Speak quietly to team 1 – giving each child a Kenyan animal name. Next, speak quietly to team 2 – saying the same animal names as given to team 1, giving each child a Kenyan animal name. (NOTE: by the end, there should be two of each animal, i.e. 2 lions, 2 giraffes, etc.). Bring the teams together, and explain that the Kenyan Animal Reserve has gotten mixed up. Invite the children from each team to act out their animal and find their pair.

Kenyan Animals: zebra, camel, egret, ostrich, lion, elephant, leopard, (Cape) buffalo, rhino, giraffe, hippo, baboon, monkey, wildebeast, warthog, antelope, gazelles, pelican, cheetah, impala, aardvark, chimpanzee, deer, donkey, goat, hyena, peacock, python, snake, wild boar, wild dog, etc.

Stick Kick Relay

Due to extreme poverty, many Kenyan children don't have fancy equipment or toys. This game is a great way to remind children that they too can fun with easy objects that are readily available to them at no cost.

Object: To be the first team to complete the relay. This game is a great way of illustrating to the children that games need not have expensive materials. In Kenya, many children play with what they find, and this game illustrates how much fun a simple stick can provide.

Materials: 2 sticks of equal length and diameter, 2 long ropes (for starting and finish lines)

Directions: Place the start and finish lines far apart in an open area (15-25 feet apart). Divide the children into two equal teams. Instruct each team to form a line behind the starting line. To start the game, the first child in each team has to kick their stick as far as they can, getting to the finish line and returning to the start as quick as they can without touching the stick with anything but their feet. Once back to the start the next child in line kicks the stick to the finish line and back. This continues until all the children in the team have "kicked the stick." The team who gets through the relay first wins.

Splish – Splish – Splosh

Kenya is hot and dry, and water is often a rare commodity. This is a fun game for children to beat the heat while also providing the opportunity to speak of the value of water.

Object: To avoid being "it."

Materials: Outdoor area, bucket of water, sponge.

Directions: Children are asked to form a large circle. One person is "it." The game is then played like "Duck-Duck-Goose," however, instead of tapping the children on the head, "it" soaks the sponge in water and holds it above childrens' heads and says "Splish-Splish-" until "it" decides who will chase him/her, at which point they squeeze the remaining water out on the child's head and say "Splosh."

Slap, Clap, Snap

Kenyan music is known for it's prevalence of percussion music. This traditional camp game is a great way to introduce your children to Kenyan music and songs.

Object: To be number 1. **Materials:** None

Directions: Instruct children to sit in the circle. Select one child to be #1 and go around the circle giving each child a number in sequence (you may wish to give each child a card with their number on it so they can remember). Have children do the following sequence in a beat: 2 leg slaps, 2 claps and 1 snap (i.e.: slap, slap, clap, clap, snap; slap, slap, clap, clap, snap; etc.). To begin playing, "1" says their number and another number in the circle on the snap (i.e. "1", snap, "8"). The child with their number called then says their number and another number on the snap (i.e. "8", snap, "5"). The game continues until someone forgets to go or messes up the sequence. The child who makes a mistake goes to the end (highest number) and all children move one number down.