

A Barefoot Lesson Idea

Go on a Counting Safari!

A BAREFOOT MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE LESSON FOR AGES 4 – 8

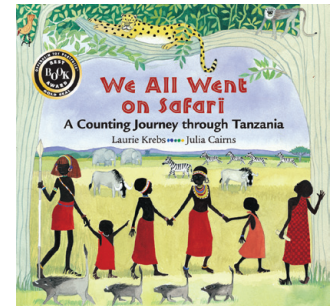
How many languages are there in your school? Do any of the children at your school speak Swahili? Ask them to help you teach the rest of the class to count in Swahili!

WHAT TO DO

1. Look on a map of the world to see the countries where Swahili is spoken. The children are going to learn animal names and how to count to ten in Swahili. Do the children know anyone who can speak Swahili?
2. Read *We All Went on Safari* aloud. Count the animals with the children as you read the story. Look at the numbers in the bottom right-hand corner of each page and say the number aloud in Swahili.
3. **Playing catch in Swahili:** Find a soft sponge ball. As you throw the ball to a child in the class, shout out a number between 1 and 10 in English. The child who is catching the ball has to reply in Swahili; you might shout “Five!” as you throw the ball to a child; that child has to catch the ball and shout “Tano!” back.
4. **Have a counting circle:** Point randomly at children, and they have to count in sequence in Swahili.
5. Read the section about the Swahili names for animals. The children can draw a picture of an animal they choose and write the Swahili name for it underneath.
6. Teach some Swahili proverbs to the children (see “Design a Kanga” for a list of proverbs). Show the children a kanga — a decorated piece of cloth with a proverb written across the bottom. Some of the proverbs have animals and numbers in them.



Illustration © Julia Cairns from *We All Went on Safari*



We All Went on Safari

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