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Mama Tomcat’s Flying School!
By Spring Herman

Plot
This Play is about four tomcats! Suddenly their lives change when they have to take care of a baby seagull! Will four cats be able to teach a seagull how to be a seagull??

Characters
Zorbo- A tough guy tomcat. The leader of the cats
Salvatore- (Sal) A tomcat. Zorbo’s best friend.
Admiral- A tomcat that used to be a ship cat!
Einstein- The smartest tomcat, he loves books!
Lucky- The baby seagull.
Trashheap- A mean tomcat who is ready to cause trouble!
Sneaky-A rat
Shifty- A rat
Lady Gull- Lucky’s mom.

The play takes place in Boston, right by the ocean!
How To Make an Ocean in a Bottle!

What you need

- Empty, clean soda bottles. Any size. (baby food Jars also work.)
- Clear vegetable oil or mineral oil
- Water
- funnel
- Blue food coloring
- Small star fish, shells and other sea creatures (optional)
- One tsp glitter
- White craft glue
- Hot glue

What you do

1. Wash and dry two-liter bottle and remove all labels
2. Fill bottle halfway with tap water
3. Add a few drops of blue food coloring and swirl around to mix
4. Add glitter
5. Add sea creatures
6. Fill bottle the rest of the way with vegetable oil using a funnel
7. Be sure that rim and cap are dry, then apply white craft glue around the rim. Seal cap.
8. Use a layer of hot glue around the outer edge of the cap for added protection from leakage
9. Turn bottle on its side and gently rock the bottle to create a “wave” inside your ocean habitat!

Try other colors! There is no rule that says your ocean must be blue!
OIL SPILLS

What is an oil spill?

An oil spill is when gallons of oil get dumped into the ocean.

What causes oil spills?

An oil spills are cause by people, usually people that are not being careful. Oil tankers out in the ocean can leak oil when they hit land and get holes in them.

Sometimes when countries are at war, one country might dump oil into another country’s ocean.

Some people illegally dump oil into the ocean, because they do not want to pay to have their oil disposed of properly.

Natural disasters can also cause oil spills. Hurricanes can knock oil tankers over and spill their oil everywhere.

Who is affected by oil spills?

Sea otters

Killer whales

Sea birds

Plankton

Clams and Oysters

Humans

What do oil spills do to animals?

Birds get poisoned from oil spills when it gets on their fur and they try to clean themselves.

Oil can get in the eyes of animals and cause them to go blind.

Many animals are endangered because of oil spills.

Oil gets in the lungs and bloodstream of animals and poisons them.
Oil lowers the body temperature of many animals and they can freeze.

**How do they clean up oil spills?**

If they are found in time animals are cleaned up with soaps that dissolve oil and the inside of their bodies are flushed clean.

A **boom** is something that is put in the ocean to collect oil out of the water.

A **skimmer** is a boat that cleans oil of the top of the water.

**Airplanes** can fly over the ocean and drop chemicals in the water that dissolve the oil.

**Vacuum trucks** clean of oil that gets on beaches.

**What can you do to help stop oil spills?**

If everybody uses less oil then there will be less oil transported on the ocean, and the chances of oil spilling will go down.

**How to use less oil!**

Instead of driving, walk or ride a bike!

Turn off lights, televisions, computers, when you aren’t using them!

Try to buy products made of glass instead of plastic!

The less oil we use, the less that needs to be sent over seas!

This information came from:

http://library.thinkquest.org/CR0215471/oil_spills.htm
The Story of a Seagull and the Cat Who Taught Her to Fly

Facts about the book

• This book was originally written in Spanish but was translated by Margaret Sayers Peden into English.
• The book is published in more than 30 countries!
• The book has 126 pages
• It has cool illustrations by Chris Sheban

Facts about the author

• Luis Sepulveda was born in northern Chile
• He was forced to leave his country because of his political activities through the student’s movement
• He has written short stories, plays, radio plays and essays.
• The Story of a Seagull and the Cat Who Taught Her to Fly was his first children’s book.
• Since 1997 Mr. Sepulveda and his family reside in Spain
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE book and mama tomcat’s flying school:

- Zorbo’s name in the book is zorba!
- The cats decide to go talk to a human in the book!
- There are five cats in the book that raise lucky, instead of four.
- There is a monkey in the book!

If you want to learn more about Lucky, Zorbo (Zorba) and all the others you should read The Story of a Seagull and the Cat Who Taught Her to Fly! Check it out at your local library!
Imagine you are standing on a ship just like the admiral! What kind of things would you see?

**MAIN PARTS OF A SHIP**

Admiral’s Ship Game!

Have everyone take turns being “Admiral”. Admiral stands at the front of the classroom. Make sure all desks and chairs are cleared to one side. Admiral can call out BOW (Front) STERN (Rear) STARBOARD (Right) PORT (Leftside). When Admiral calls out a location all of the shipmates must go to that part of the ship. If Admiral yells SEAGULLS ALOFT everyone must fly like a seagull. You can also add some “admiral says” to make the game more complicated. “Admiral says walk a cat to the Bow”. Etc.
How long do cats live?
- Usually live 12-15 years
- Longest recorded life of a cat: 25 years

What do cats eat?
- Fish
- Chicken
- Beef
- Pork
- Dry Food
- Cat Grass (special food to help cats with stomach aches)
- Bugs

Myths
- Cats have nine lives
- In the 17th and 19th Centuries Europeans believed cats brought good luck
- If it is going to rain cats stop playing and become still (Irish Belief)
- Cats were the pets of witches
- The body language of cats can predict the weather
- Black cats are unlucky if they cross your path

Facts
- Sleeping a majority of the day is typical of a cat because their diet (food intake) requires resting after meals to digest.
- Cats prefer regular meal times
- Cat litters (kittens) usually range from 1-7
- Cats rub up against things to leave their scent and mark their territory
- Not all cats are afraid of water. Larger, wild cats and fish hunting cats enter the water willingly
- Cats do not need claws to climb vertical surfaces, they use their momentum
- Cats have two layers of fur. One to keep clean, one to keep warm
- Purring is related to times of happiness, but can be a sign of injury or illness
- Cats have to climb down trees backwards because of their claws. This is why it is common for cats to get stuck in trees
Momma Tomcats Flying School

ADMIRIAL
CAT
EINSTEIN
FLYING SCHOOL
LUCKY
MOMMA
OIL
RAT
SAL
SEAGUL
STORIES
TRASH
ZORBO

J H Z T R A S H P A U S V R L
N R H U E A U C S T O R I E S
B E S C O D X X W I C K L H X
C O D M I M B E B E S G C C C
R M P Z L R W A E O N F G A L
I T M O M I T M O M M A M S G
R T N R E A T T Y G S K N J B
H S C B S L U C K Y J V V A M
R E S O P T K H Z L L M E C S
X A E I N S T I E N N S B G E
B G T F L Y I N G S C H O O L
U U W I B V R U L A Y I K C S
J L V X I K O F B L E G P A U
Y T C E C A I X Y K M Q N T U
L W S I T I N O J Y J R G E B
CAT MASK ACTIVITY

Who was your favorite cat from the show?

Zorbo
Admrial
Einstine
Sal

Pick your favorite cat and color the mask on the next page to look like them. Then get together with a group of friends who have the masks of the other cats and act out your own show!
Eggs are usually hatched by their mom keeping them warm. In Mama Tomcats Flying School the egg needs Zorbo to keep him warm!

If eggs do not have anyone to keep them warm, they go in a special box called an incubator!

Eggs must be kept 102 Degrees Fahrenheit in a still-air incubator.

Eggs must be turned 4 to 6 times daily. Keep track of turning an egg on a chart with X’s and O’s.

Wash your hands before handling the egg, or chick!

Chickens will hatch after 21-25 days.

Depending on what kind of seagull, their eggs will hatch after 19-28 days.
• How long do Seagulls live?
  o Gulls can live up to 49 years!

• What do Seagulls eat?
  o Seagulls are carnivores which means they eat meat.
  o Seagulls eat crabs, small fish and are often found stealing food and garbage from humans.

• Facts about Seagulls
  o Seagulls are large gray and white birds.
  o Seagulls lay 2-3 speckled eggs in there nests.
  o The baby seagulls is a darker color.
  o Seagulls do not have to be by the sea, they are often found further inland.
  o Seagulls can drink freshwater and saltwater!
  o Gulls live far away from predators and humans. They make their homes on deserted islands, cliffs, on top of large buildings, barns and any other remote area.
  o Seagulls are migratory birds! When it gets to be winter they travel thousands of miles to find warmer weather and better food!
SEAGULL BABY AND MAMA ACTIVITY:

SUPPLIES:
- 2 Bird Template Found on the next page (One baby and one Mama)
- Gray feathers/glue on items
- White feathers/glue on items
- Orange and yellow crayons
- Popsicle Sticks
- Glue sticks

Facts: Baby seagulls are born with grey downy feathers! As they grow up, the grow white feathers for flying. Can you make a mama and a baby seagull?

Directions: Have the kids paste the grey feathers on the baby seagull, and the white on the larger one. Color the legs and beak yellow and orange. Cut out the seagulls. Glue the popsicle sticks onto the back of the seagulls. Now you have two puppets!

FIND THE MAMA GAME:

Fill a basket with cards that have a baby animal and a matching mama animal. (Ex. One card might have a mama pig, and it’s match would be a baby pig.) Have each student draw a card. Let them know it is a secret! Now ask the children to find their mama, WITHOUT using their words. In pantomime, they should show which baby or mama they are. Let everyone roam around the room being their animal. When everyone has found their mama or baby, put the paper back in the basket and Try again!

THE IMPRINTING GAME!

Fact: Imprinting is when a baby is born, sees it mother and copies her actions to learn how to grow up.

Activity: Have the children pair up, this is a mirror game. Everything your partner does, you have to do. It is a sequence game. For example:

Partner One: Clap
Partner Two: Clap

Partner One: Clap Stomp
Partner Two: Clap Stomp

Partner One adds more and more things into their routine. When a team gets the sequence wrong, they are out. The last team still mirroring wins!
Don't Worry Bird Puppet
Don't Worry Bird Puppet
QUIZ!

1. Seagulls can live to be ________ years old!

2. When hatching an egg, it should be turned ___ to ___ times a day!

3. What is one type of food cats eat? ________

4. The left side of a ship is called ________.

5. A ________ is a boat that cleans oil off of the top of the ocean.

6. Name one animal Oil spills affect. ________

7. What is a boomer?

8. Where does Mama Tomcat’s Flying School take place?

9. There are ________ cats that take care of Lucky.

10. The front of a ship is called ________.

11. Seagulls eat meat, which means they are ________.
14. Use this space to write down any **questions** you have for the **actors** that will be performing *Mama Tomcat’s Flying School* for you!