

# IS YOUR MAMA A LLAMA?

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by Deborah Guarino, illustrated by Steven Kellogg (Scholastic)

Themes: Animals, Growth and Change, Nature

Grade Level: PreK–1

Running Time: 6 minutes

## SUMMARY

A baby llama is the star of this series of rhymed riddles about animal characteristics. As Lloyd the llama meets each animal friend, the friend describes its mama. The riddle has a moment of suspense just before the name of the animal is revealed. Children will enjoy chiming in at these key points and moving the story along. Through the riddles and pictures, children meet babies and mamas who are bats, swans, cows, seals, kangaroos, and, of course, llamas. In details from the pictures, children can also spot baby and mother owls, seagulls, turtles, rabbits, koala bears and opossums.

## OBJECTIVES

- Children will watch and listen to a story about imaginary animals.
- Children will guess rhymed words and the solutions to riddles.
- Children will identify animals as both infants and adults.

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Show students the cover of the book or video, and ask them to discuss the title and art. Have them identify which animal on the cover is the llama, and find the mama and baby in the picture (the owl). Alert children to be on the lookout for mama animals and baby animals as they enjoy the story. Also alert them that the story will ask them to supply some of the rhymes. Add an extra play element to the viewing by asking children to wait for your signal before saying the rhymes out loud.

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Go back over the story riddle by riddle and scene by scene. Have children make a chalkboard list of all the animals and babies they saw in the program.

Connect the story to science by introducing the word "characteristics" and reviewing the characteristics that were listed in the riddles. Encourage children to describe the characteristics of other animals that they saw in the program. Ask them to identify one characteristic all the baby animals have in common (they are smaller than their parents). Make chalkboard lists of the animal characteristics, and compare which animals have similar characteristics, such as fur, feathers, four feet and two feet.

Connect the story to science and writing by encouraging children to invent their own rhyming riddles about animal characteristics.

Connect the story to art by encouraging children to draw pictures of their favorite animal babies.

Connect the story to math by going back over the program and counting all the sets of animals. Encourage children to create story problems based on the pictures. For example, if there are 3 rabbits, 2 swans, 1 llama and one calf, how many animals are there in all?

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