

Madagascar – Escape 2 Africa

Study Notes



Directed by: Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath
Certificate: PG (contains mild comic violence and threat)
Running time: 89 mins
Release date: 5 December 2008

Synopsis

Alex, Marty, Melman and Gloria find themselves marooned on the distant shores of Madagascar. In the face of this obstacle, the New Yorkers have hatched a plan so crazy it just might work. With military precision, the penguins have repaired an old crashed plane (sort of). Once aloft, this unlikely crew stays airborne just long enough to make it to the wildest place of all—the vast plains of Africa, where the members of our zoo-raised crew encounter species of their own kind for the very first time. Africa seems like a great place... but is it better than their Central Park home?

Before seeing the film

1. Escape 2 Africa is a sequel to the film Madagascar. In the first film, Alex the lion, Marty the zebra, Melman the giraffe and Gloria the hippopotamus were shipped from a New York zoo to Kenya but when penguins hijacked the ship and headed to Antarctica, the four heroes accidentally ended up stranded in Madagascar.

- Use a map, globe, atlas or the internet to locate all these places
- Trace the animals' journey. What oceans do you think they travelled through?

2. Madagascar is the fourth-largest island in the world. Can you find out what the first, second and third largest islands are? How does Great Britain compare to Madagascar in size?

3. The species below all feature as characters in Madagascar – Escape 2 Africa. Choose one to research and as a class produce a guide to them all, your 'Madagascar Manual'. Research their habitats, food, physical features etc. What do you call a group of your chosen species?

- Lion
- Zebra
- Giraffe
- Hippopotamus
- Lemur
- Aye-aye
- Penguin

After seeing the film

1. In this sequel the animals travel from Madagascar to Africa. Find out how far that is and which countries on the African continent are nearest Madagascar. Where exactly do you think the animals landed?

2. Think about zoos, like the one in New York the animals came from, or one you have visited in the UK. What are zoos for and what is your opinion of them? Are they an educational, fun way for us to see the world's many different species? Do you think they are important for preserving animals that are endangered or even extinct in the wild? Or do you think all animals should be left in their natural habitat?

■ Find out what other people in your class think and hold a debate. Are zoos a good or bad thing?

■ Write a speech from your point of view and then collect everyone's opinions. Then you can write an argument that shows both sides.

3. Escape 2 Africa was a sequel, a continuation of the story from Madagascar. There may well be a Madagascar 3. What do you think could happen in that film? Write a blurb or storyboard a trailer for the third chapter of the story. Where will the animals go next? Or do they stay where they are? Decide what you think should happen to the four main characters.

Written by: Matthew Poyton