

Animals United Study Notes



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Directed by: Richard Kloos and Holger Tappe

Certificate: U (contains mild threat)

Running time: 89 mins

Release date: 29 July 2011

Synopsis:

Billy the meerkat and his friend Socrates the lion live in Botswana, where water is hard to come by and animals rely on an annual flood for food and water. When no water comes they discover that humans have built a dam for a luxury holiday resort. Billy and Socrates set off to find water and on their journey meet other animals searching for a new home after humans destroyed their habitats. The animals join forces to save the African delta and stop the humans interfering with nature.

These Study Notes are suitable for KS1/2 Geography, Numeracy, Literacy and Science.

Before watching the film

1. Drought is a problem in Botswana so rainwater is precious. When it does rain it often floods in places like the Okavango Delta where the film is set. Use books and the internet to research these places. Start by finding answers to the following questions:
 - Where is Botswana on a world map?
 - How many people live in Botswana?
 - What are people's houses made of there?
 - What is a delta?
 - What other problems do people and animals face in Botswana?
2. Tourists from around the world visit Botswana to see animals like Billy and Socrates on safari. Find out what other wildlife tourists might see on safaris in Botswana. Which of them do you think might feature as characters in *Animals United*? Keep an eye out for animals in the film that you wouldn't find in Africa.
3. Lions and meerkats are not animals you would expect to be friends. Find the average measurements for height, weight and tail length of an African lion and that of a meerkat. What is the difference between the measurements you find? Draw both animals, side by side, to scale. How does your height compare to that of a meerkat or of a lion?

After watching the film

1. Water is scarce in Botswana. In some parts of the world, people have to walk a long distance for water that isn't as fresh and clean as the water we take for granted in our homes. How can we avoid wasting water at home and in school? Write a persuasive speech or letter that encourages people to use water wisely.
2. How many different species of animals did you spot in the film? Try to list them all from memory. Which came from Africa and which came from other countries to help Billy and Socrates? Think of the different ways you could sort the animals into two, three or four groups. Locate the animals' homes on a map of the world.
3. Create an information text about the different species in the film, with fact files for each animal. Include the following information for your reader:
 - Size
 - Habitat
 - Diet
 - Predators

Which wild animals that didn't feature in the film would you have liked to see? Imagine there is a sequel to the film, featuring new animal characters. What new animals would you like to see in this new film, and why?

Written by Matthew Poyton