

## **Learning Activity for An African Adventure** **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

**Objective:** The students will learn that it is not always necessary to find an exact answer.

**Materials:** 10 labeled jars with various items in them (beans, bottle caps, crayons, cubes, etc); each jar will have a different item to estimate

### **An African Adventure - Estimating Numbers**

A train ride  
An African adventure  
The hippos  
Are splashing in the river  
There must be 20  
Or 30 hippos  
A bathing family  
Of happy hippos

Spoken: I can determine that there are this many hippos because they are bathing in groups of about 4 to 6, and I see at least 5 groups in the water. That would bring my total estimate to between 20 to 30 hippotami.

The train chugs  
Along the open grassland  
Giraffes run  
They're taller than the treetops  
There must be 90  
Or 100 giraffes there  
The moms and babies  
And papa giraffes there

Spoken: First I saw a group of about 10 giraffe running by the train. Right behind them was a larger group of giraffe that looked to be 10 times the size of the first group. That would mean there was between 90 to 100 giraffe.

The train slows  
There's lions at the crossing  
The lion cubs  
Are rolling round and playing  
There must be hundreds  
With long manes flyin'  
I see them crossing  
The golden lions

Spoken: The conductor on the train told me that this was the largest group of lions he had seen for some time. He said, that he usually sees only about 80 to 90 lions at a time, but this group was 2 or 3 times larger than that. That would mean there are hundreds of lions.  
The train moves

Across the barren veldt land  
Flocks of ostriches  
Are runnin' tryin' to keep up  
There's near a thousand birds who can't fly past  
But see them running  
They sure can run fast

Spoken: The flock of ostriches running stretch the entire length of our train. Outside the window of my train car, I see about 90 to 95 birds. The train has 10 cars. That would add up to nearly 1000 ostriches.

A train ride  
An African adventure  
The wildlife  
Enjoys the summer sunshine  
I feel so lucky  
Here in their habitat  
They have their freedom  
Looks like they love that.

#### **Procedure:**

- 1) Play the song.
- 2) Discuss key words for estimating...about, between, at least.
- 3) Teacher will hold up Jar A. Students will make an estimate of how many items are in the jar.
- 4) Allow students to verbalize their estimate. Teacher will write the student estimates on the board. Students will report their estimate on their work mat. Teacher will count. Who was the closest? Students will find the difference between their guess and actual.

**Evaluation:** Teacher observation while estimating and finding the difference. Choose 5 different jars to demonstrate their estimating skills, recording their results.