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Activity Guide

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Abran Paso a Los Patitos

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ABOUT THE STORY

A family of mallards searching for a suitable site for a home come upon what proves to be (after a period of somewhat harried adjustment) the perfect location – the Boston Public Gardens.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A native Ohioan who explored the worlds of music and mechanics before settling on an art career, Robert McCloskey is one of America's most successful and popular creators of children's books. The first person to be twice awarded the Caldecott Medal (for *Make Way for Ducklings* and *Time of Wonder*), he also brought into being the endearing and enduring *Homer Price*. Other titles by Mr. McCloskey include *Blueberries for Sal* (available as a Live Oak Readalong) and *One Morning in Maine*.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Allan Yeager has been a teacher of the first grade at Waldo Rohnert School in Rohnert Park, California. He is also the author of a resource book, *Using Picture Books with Children*. Mr. Yeager has lectured and written for professional journals. He lives in San Francisco.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Have you ever seen a nest full of eggs? Where was it? What color were the eggs? How big were they? Where do you think the mother bird was? This book tells the story of Mr. and Mrs. Mallard and the eight ducklings that hatched from the eggs in their nest.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills Story Map

Discuss the events in the story. Have children decide which important events took place in the beginning of the story, in the middle, and at the end. Fill in a chart as a group.

How would it be different?

The main characters in this story are ducks. How would the story be different if the characters were a different kind of animal, for example, rabbits or cats. What kinds of homes would they be searching for? Where might they look?

Children may want to rewrite the story for a different animal (Abran Paso a Los Perritos – Make Way for Puppies).

Vocabulary

Los patos graznan, las vacas...?

Duplicate and distribute the following list of animals and the sounds they make. Have the children draw a line from the animal to the sound it makes.

pato	rebuzno
vaca	ladrido
gato	balido
perro	maullido
caballo	graznido
tigre	rugido
burro	mugido
oveja	relincho

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Math: Los Ocho Patitos

Mrs. Mallard taught the eight ducklings to walk in a single line. Give each pair of students eight counters. How many ducks would there be in two lines? How many in four lines? What would happen if there were three lines?

Social Studies: ¿Dónde está Boston?

Using a map of Boston, find the locations of some of the places talked about in the story: el Jardín Público, Beacon Hill, el Edificio del Estado, la plaza Louisburg, el río Charles, etc. Where are these relative to each other – north, south, east, or west? You may want to share some pictures of sites in the Boston area. Would they make a good home for the Mallard family?

Art: Una Laguna para los patitos

Cut out a large pond from blue paper and attach it to a bulletin board. Provide a variety of art materials so the children can recreate the characters and the habitat in the story. Use reference materials to help make the drawings as accurate as possible.

Language Arts: Verbs: ¿Imperfecto o pretérito?

Discuss the use of the imperfect tense as opposed to the preterite. Have children look through the book to find examples of each. Using the following sentences, have children decide which tense should be used.

1. Los señores Patos (buscaban, buscaron) un lugar para vivir.
2. Al fin (escogían, escogieron) una isla cerca del Jardín Público.
3. La señora Pata (ponía, puso) ocho huevos en el nido.
4. Un día ocho patitos (salían, salieron) del cascarón.
5. En el calle Charles los patitos (marachaban, marcharon) en fila.

Math: ¿Cuántos nadan?

Have children work in pairs to make up word problems about the ducks. Use counters if you wish. For example: The 8 ducklings were swimming in the pond, 3 went back to the nest. How many were left in the pond?