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Activity Guide

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Los Animales No Se Visten

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ABOUT THE STORY

It's a fact that just about any animal you can think of would be better off if it didn't wear clothes. But did you ever stop to imagine what could happen if some of them did? The author, Judi Barrett, and the artist, Ron Barrett, take a very funny look at some of the possibilities.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Judi Barrett, who also teaches art to children, has written many award-winning books, including *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, *Pickles to Pittsburgh* and *Animals Should Definitely Not Act Like People*. Ron Barret was formerly an advertising art director and consultant to the Children's Television Workshop before turning to children's book illustration. His work has appeared in National Lampoon, and in addition to *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*, he has illustrated the books mentioned above.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask the group to think about how sometimes clothes can be a problem for them. For example, a hat that is too big can fall down over your eyes. Pants that are too long can trip you. Point out that people sometimes put clothes on animals. On cold days, some people dress dogs in sweaters and put blankets on horses. But what if animals decided to wear clothes – and made all the wrong choices? (*NOTE: Exercises devoted to vocabulary include words in both Spanish and English, enabling you to present them according to the needs of the group and the goals of your lesson.*)

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “What would a snake do with its clothes?”
- “What would happen if a mouse wore clothing?”
- “How would a sheep feel if it wore clothing?”
- “Where would a camel wear its clothes?”
- “What would happen to a walrus' clothes?”
- “Which of the animal's clothes did you find the funniest or most surprising? Why?” (*Make judgments*)

Vocabulary

Duplicate and distribute the following list of words from the book. Have each member of the group draw a line from the animal named in Spanish in the left column to its English translation in the right column. Allow the group to refer to the book or a dictionary if they need help.

puercoespín*	goat
camello	walrus
serpiente	pig
ratón*	porcupine
oveja	sheep
cerdo	mouse
gallina	camel
canguro	reindeer
jirafa	snake
cabrito	giraffe
morsa	hen
rena	kangaroo

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science: *Animals' Clothes*

Point out to children that in a way, animals do wear clothes – their skin covering. Have children name the “clothes” these animals wear: snakes; sheep; ducks; fish; lobsters; clams; porcupines. Lead children to see that the “clothes” these animals wear are a form of protection for the animals.

Art: *Animal Fashion Magazine*

Have children think of animals not in the book who would look especially funny in clothing. They can draw pictures of the animals in clothing, using their imaginations to make the pictures as colorful and silly as possible. Collect the illustrations together in an animal fashion magazine.

Language Arts: *Unscrambling Words*

Write the following scrambled words on the board as they appear below. Seven of the words are the names of animals that appear in the book. The eighth word is the name of an animal that is not in the book and has a very long name.

roiepcup	pheanlte
ogkahrora	fgrfeia
ogta yblil	ppphoitsuma
srwalu	mpoouss

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Dogs in Clothes

The artist William Wegman dresses his dogs in clothing and photographs them in human poses. Using the keywords *William Wegman*, have children find examples of his photographs on the Internet. They can print out the photo they like best and show it to the rest of the group.