



# Gecko—A Story from East Africa

## CURRICULUM IDEAS for parents and teachers

### Math

- Chart lengths and weights of different geckos.
- Compare the sizes of the animals in the story—lion, rhino, elephant, python, monkey, lemur, and gecko.
- Find items in the classroom/school that weigh the same as the animals in the story.

### Reading

- Check out the picture book “Water Hole Waiting” by Kurtz, Kurtz, and Christiansen.
- Read other Lango/Acholi/East African tales.
- Read other stories of perseverance and determination.

### Writing

- Write about a time when someone made fun of you.
- Write what would have happened if the gecko didn't keep trying.
- Write about what you think the gecko did with the treasure.

### Science

- Study the animals in the story (see Math above).

### Geography

- Geographically speaking, could this story have happened in Sudan? Uganda? Why or why not?
- Where in Sudan and Uganda could this story have taken place?

### Music

- Listen to Sudanese music. Click on the music link at <http://sudan.net> (not www).
- Identify and make instruments to play your own East African music.

### Art

- Make wood block stamps of African animals and stamp fabric or paper.

### Culture

- Visit [www.pbskids.org/africa/myworld/index.html](http://www.pbskids.org/africa/myworld/index.html) and click on Uganda for pictures and information from a child's perspective.
- Watch the video “Worlds Together—East Africa” about East African children.
- Research the Lango and Acholi people groups. How are they different? How are they alike? Check out <http://sudan.net> (not www) which has lots of information about the country.
- Visit [www.myuganda.co.ug](http://www.myuganda.co.ug) which has information about Uganda.
- Play “Getting the Bride Home.” One player is the bride and the other players are on teams, either protecting the bride or trying to tag her as she goes “home.” Players must hop on one foot, grasping the other foot with the opposite hand.

### Treasure Bearer

- Practice determination by keeping on trying to do something new, or something you struggle with.
- Encourage others around you who are trying something hard to keep trying!