



Animal Tails:

explorations of the animal world through connections to literature

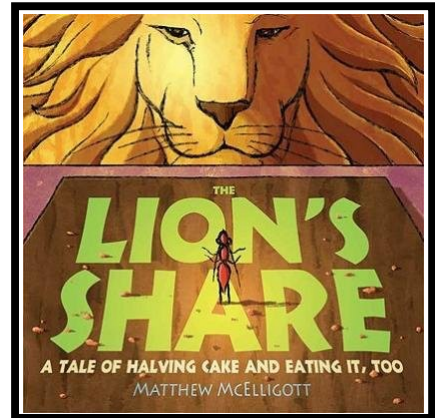
The Lion's Share: A Tale of Halving Cake and Eating it, Too

by Matthew McElligott

Age: 2nd-5th grade

Gather your Gear

- The Lion's Share book or log on to watch the storybook reading
- Two pieces of blank paper
- Colored pencils, crayons, or markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Ruler
- Small container or bowl



Get Ready

You can help your child make connections by thinking about concepts before reading the story.

- What types of animals have you seen at a zoo?
- What can you tell me about lions?
- How much food do you think lions usually eat?

Read

Read the book, stopping to explore key story ideas. Below are some prompts to help guide you.

- How many pieces are made each time an animal cuts the cake in half?
- Did the other animals share equally?
- What does it mean when an animal promises to make "twice as many" cakes as the animal before them?

Reflect

Briefly discuss what was important or what we learned. Below are some questions to guide you.

- How many ant-sized pieces of cake would it take to put the whole cake back together?
- How many pieces would it have taken to share the cake equally amongst all the animals, including the king?



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Relate

Create connections to the idea through activities

Activity: Collage

In this activity, you will explore division while observing wildlife in your own backyard.

1. Gather all your materials and find an outside spot to sit where you can observe wildlife including insects, birds, squirrels, etc. You will need a solid surface to draw on.
2. With a piece of blank paper, observe the world around you and imagine that you are sharing part of your paper with each animal. Just like the animals in the book, use your ruler to measure, and cut your paper in half for the first animal you see. For each animal you see next, choose one side of the paper to cut in half each time. Each set of halves should be smaller than the last. Place the sides that you are not cutting into two pieces in your container to be used later.
3. When you think your paper is as small as you can get it, use your crayons, markers, colored pencils, or other art supplies to draw something that reminds you of the wildlife you were able to observe. It could be the animals themselves, or something they were doing, or a place they were sitting.
4. Once you have colored all of your pieces, grab a second piece of blank paper and your glue.
5. Using the second piece of paper as a base, put all of your colored pieces together on top of the base so that you have rebuilt your first piece of paper. Once they are all arranged, glue them down and enjoy your beautiful collage of the wildlife you share the world with!

Did you know: Lions are the only cats known to live in social groups. Other species of wild cat are solitary, preferring to live alone. There are two subspecies of lion:

- **The Asiatic lion-** inhabiting the teak woods in India's Gir Forest
- **The African lion-** inhabit sub-Saharan Africa and reserves in the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem
- Lions are carnivores, and typically hunt grazing animals. They only hunt when hungry, which means they don't necessarily eat every day.
- Lions can eat almost every part of their prey, which ensures the lion gets all of the nutrients it needs.

Feeding facts: This story features animals from all three primary types of diet: carnivores (meat eaters), herbivores (plant eaters), and omnivores (meat and plant eaters). The carnivores are the lion and the frog. Representing omnivores are the macaw, the warthog, and the ant. Gorillas, tortoises, hippos, and elephants are all herbivores. Beetles are omnivorous, with different species specializing in a different kind of diet.



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Lion Fun Facts:

- Lions have tongues covered in specialized hairs called papillae. These papillae make their tongues rough, which helps them clean meat off of bones.
- Lionesses do most of the hunting for a pride, but male lions living on their own are also good hunters.
- Male lions from the same litter may live together as adults, and sometimes will take over a pride as a group.
- Lions can sleep for up to 20 hours a day.

It takes a team.... join ours

Help us save species by joining the “Zoo Conservation Corps” and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If you or your family are on social media, post pictures of your activity to share with your family and friends what you have learned. Use the hashtag #OnlyZooATL so that we can see all your great work!

Want to know more....

- Go to Zoo Atlanta’s website to learn about the African lions who live at Zoo Atlanta:
<https://zooatlanta.org/animal/african-lion/>
- Check out Zoo Atlanta’s YouTube page for videos featuring our African lions:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh1d5bkhX3DGMgBFOQt15Sw>
- Another great site for information is National Geographic Kids:
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/lion/>