



Affiliated with the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning network



## Content Standards

### English Language Arts

With prompting and support, identify characters, settings and major events in a story.

Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact.

### Dance

Observe dances and dancers and share what they see using words, pictures or movements.

Describe different ways that movements shaped into dance depict feelings and emotions .

Observe, identify and describe basic choreographic elements.

# The Carnival of the Animals Educator Guide

*Enriching the lives of children and promoting creative learning by uniting arts and education.*

## About the Program



Let your imagination soar with **Verb Ballets'** new fun children's ballet, The Carnival of the Animals, choreographed by Richard Dickinson. Set to Camille Saint-Saens' beloved score, the whimsical menagerie of animals comes to life. The Carnival of the

Animals has been acclaimed as the perfect introductory classical piece for young children. During this 30-minute ballet, costumed dancers delight children through movements inspired by the animals they portray. Dickinson has taken the music of Saint-Saens and uses it to tell the story of the Cuckoo Bird who is made fun of by the different animals. They learn to appreciate each other's differences as the beautiful Swan teaches tolerance and acceptance followed by a grand carnival ending the ballet.

## Objectives

1. Students will be able to learn about character development through movement.
2. Students will be able to identify literary elements such as character development, setting, and elements of a story.
3. Students will be able to experience storytelling in a new way by seeing a classic fable narrated with music and dance instead of words.

## Before the Program

Listen to the music of Saint-Saens "The Carnival of the Animals".

Read "The Scars are Forever".

Watch the "Bullying Ballet" on line

## After the Program

Have the students make up their own dance version of "The Carnival of the Animals", based on what they remember of the story.

Work individually and in small groups to discuss the role of the intervener. Act it out with gestures.

Learn how to use action to discuss responses to bullying.

## Vocabulary

**Character:** A person marked by notable or conspicuous traits; one of the persons of a drama or novel

**Orchestra:** A group of musicians who play usually classical music together and who are led by a conductor

**Narrate:** To tell a story

**Fable-** A short story that usually is about animals and that is intended to teach a lesson

## About Verb Ballets

**Verb Ballets** ignites audience passion and participation in contemporary dance. Under the leadership of director Dr. Margaret Carlson, **Verb Ballets** strives to support and foster emerging talent, to present excellence in contemporary choreographers and to be a thought leader in cultivating dance appreciation and support through education and outreach programs. In growing audience appreciation for dance, **Verb Ballets** helps to make Ohio a national destination for the arts.

## Resources

Animated *Peter and the Wolf* Short Film

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kYeeXav6bA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kYeeXav6bA)

Leonard Bernstein's recording of "Peter and the Wolf"

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvhA7\\_qB39s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvhA7_qB39s)



## About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning

*Through a balance of demonstration and audience participation, the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning teaching artist performances and workshops introduce students to an art form, support various curricular areas, and inject excitement and wonder into the school day.*



**Ohio Arts Council**  
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