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Activity Guide

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Minnie & Moo Go to Paris

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ABOUT THE STORY

Minnie and Moo are on the move again. The bovine duo wants to travel, so they take a bus --- literally --- and start out. How the two cows manage to see Africa, Paris, and China in a single day and still get home in time for milking makes for a rollicking tale.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Denys Cazet worked as a cook, gardener, ditch digger, farmer, cable splicer, and school librarian before he began writing books for children. He is the author of several other books about Minnie and Moo, including *Minnie and Moo Go to the Moon*, *Minnie and Moo Save the Earth*, and *Minnie and Moo Go Dancing*, all Live Oak Readalongs. Denys Cazet lives in northern California.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children where they would like to visit, if they could go anywhere in the world. Discuss the sights they would like to see in the place of their choice. Then explain that in the book they will read, two cows go on the trip of their dreams.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “Why do Minnie and Moo take over the bus?”
- “Where is Minnie and Moo’s first stop?”
- “Where do the cows go second?”
- “What do Minnie and Moo think the car wash is?”
- “What happens to the farmer’s glasses?”
- “How are the three places Minnie and Moo actually go similar to the places the cows think they have gone?” (*Compare and contrast*)

Vocabulary

Write these columns of words on the board. Have children copy them and draw lines matching the words to make compound words from the story. Then ask children to define each compound and use it in a sentence.

whirl	house
water	one
every	walk
short	wash
farm	pool
side	fall
car	cut

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science: Giant Eggs

Explain to children that the egg the farmer finds in the barn is probably an ostrich egg, the largest egg in the world. Have children look in an encyclopedia or other reference book to find out how big an ostrich egg can be. They can also find information on other animals that lay very big and very small eggs and share what they learn with the rest of the class.

Math: A Long Trip

Minnie and Moo believe they go from the United States to Africa, then to Paris, France, and then to China. Show children a flat map of the world. Ask them to work in groups, using the distance key on the map and a ruler to measure how far the cows would have traveled if they had actually made that trip.

Science: Animals of Africa

Minnie and Moo see some African animals on their trip, including a water buffalo, giraffes, and an ostrich. Have children choose one of these or another African animal to research. Using an encyclopedia or other source material, they can find out about the animal they have chosen and write a brief report on it to present to the class.

Social Studies: The Monsoon

Minnie and Moo mistake the car wash for a monsoon. Have children work in groups to find out what a monsoon is, what it does, and where monsoons occur. Ask each group to write up the information they find in encyclopedias or other reference books.

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.

The Real Eiffel Tower

Using the keywords *Eiffel Tower*, children can go online to find out what the real Eiffel Tower looks like and how it was built. Ask them to write a brief explanation of the Tower’s history and to print out a photograph of the Tower to show to the class.