

Mr. Hare Takes Mr. Leopard for a Ride

The Ensemble Theatre

Grades: K-5

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

This is one of the many trickster tales from West African folklore. Mr. Hare is a frequent figure in the Hausa culture of Niger and Nigeria and is the granddaddy of the American Brer Rabbit.

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Theatre	Music	Lang. Arts	Math	Social Studies	The Students Will: *Demonstrate good audience etiquette. *Practice positive speaking and listening skills. *Demonstrate reading comprehension skills. *Engage in original writing. *Practice problem solving. *Research
K	K.4, 5	K.3, 4	K.1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12	K.1	K.11	
1	1.4, 5	1.5, 6	1.1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13	1.1	1.15	
2	2.4, 5	2.5, 6	2.1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13	2.1	2.15	
3	3.4, 5	3.5, 6	3.1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13	3.1	3.15, 3.16	
4	4.4, 5	4.5, 6	4.1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13	4.1	4.2	
5	5.4, 5	5.5, 6	5.1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13	5.1	5.21, 5.23	

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):

Writing	Grade 4	Reporting Category 1	The Students Will: ** Demonstrate an ability to compose a variety of written texts with a clear, central idea; coherent organization; sufficient development; and effective use of language and conventions.

Academic Vocabulary:

Hare	* A fast-running, long-eared mammal that resembles a large rabbit, having long hind legs and occurring typically in grassland or open woodland.
Leopard	* A large, solitary cat that has a yellowish-brown or brown coat with black spots and usually hunts at night, widespread in the forests of Africa and southern Asia. Also called panther.
West Africa	* The westernmost region of Africa, which includes the countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo, as well as the United Kingdom Overseas Territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.
Niger	* The Republic of the Niger is a landlocked country in West Africa named after the Niger River. Niger is bordered by Libya to the northeast, Chad to the east, Nigeria to the south,

	Benin to the southwest, Mali to the north-west, Burkina Faso to the south-west, and Algeria to the northwest.
Nigeria	* The Federal Republic of Nigeria is a sovereign country located in West Africa bordering Niger in the north, Chad in the northeast, Cameroon in the east, and Benin in the west. Its southern coast is on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean.
Hausa	* (1) A member of a people of northern Nigeria and adjacent regions, and (2) The Chadic language of the Hausa, spoken mainly in Nigeria and Niger, and widely used as a lingua franca (a language that is adopted as a common language between speakers whose native languages are different) in parts of West Africa.
Trickster	* A person who cheats or defeats people.
Brer Rabbit	* A trickster figure originating in African folklore and transmitted by African slaves to the New World, where it acquired attributes of similar native American tricksters. Brer Rabbit was popularized in the United States in the stories of Joel Chandler Harris (1848–1908).

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Before the performance

- Have you ever played a trick on someone? What happened?
- Is being tricky always a bad thing?

After the performance:

- What did you learn from the presentation.
- Write, draw, tell, sing, dance, or act out your favorite part.

Language Arts:

- Read more trickster tales, such as *Anansi the Spider* by Gerald McDermott or *The Tale of Rabbit and Coyote* by Tony Johnston and Tomie dePaola.
- Write a story about a trickster kid. What does he/she do? Does he/she get in trouble?
- Make as many little words as you can out of the letters of “trickster.” Ideas: let, set, rest, tick, lick, trick, crest, etc.

c e l k r r s t t

Math:

- Write an original math problem, using ideas from the performance.
- Estimate, then look up the distance from your town to West Africa.

Social Studies:

- On a map, find Niger and Nigeria.
- Find out more facts about Niger and Nigeria.

Science:

- Compare a hare to a rabbit.
- Find out more about the habits of leopards.

Resources:

http://legacyexchange.smarttech.com/search.html?q=trickster&subject=All+subjects&grade=All+grades®ion=en_US

https://www.teach-nology.com/lessons/lrn_pln_view_lessons.php?action=view&cat_id=4&lsn_id=21844

<https://houstonpbs.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/6b11dfdc-3f12-4706-9b9c-044bd0a865ae/trickster-tale-arts-after-school/>

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

The Ensemble Theatre was founded in 1976 by the late George Hawkins to preserve African American artistic expression and enlighten, entertain and enrich a diverse community. The Ensemble is one of the only professional theatres in the region dedicated to the production of works portraying the African American experience, the oldest and largest professional African American theatre in the Southwest, and holds the distinction of being one of the nation's largest African American theatres owning and operating its facility and producing in-house. The programs and operations of The Ensemble Theatre benefit a multicultural audience that is diverse in age, income, ethnicity, and culture. Through its varied programs, The Ensemble reaches over 60,000 people annually.