



Art and Storytime

Welcome to **Pollywog At Home**, Session 8! If I Ran The Zoo by Dr. Seuss

Parts to **(read aloud)** to kids are labeled before the text.
Parts that are **((asides to caregivers))** are indicated with double parenthesis.

(read aloud)

Hey Pollywoggers! I hope you are doing well. Summer vacation has officially begun for most of the big kids this year. Even though they have been mostly home anyway - the kids who are school age will now have more time to do other things. You can always invite older brothers and sisters to help you or join in with your Pollywog classes!

Welcome Song –

Let's sing The Welcome Song together:

~ sung to the tune of Rock-A-Bye Baby ~

Welcome to Art Class!

Ready for some fun?

First we sit still,
and quietly listen.

After our screen time,
we'll make something new -
but first we sing this
so we know what to do!

Opening (read aloud)

People who are older than some of you, my Pollywog friends (usually between the ages of babies and 6 year olds), are living with some amazement and other feelings about how our world is different right now. It is still very important to be spending most, if not ALL, of our time at home and separate from others - so this difference means we have to plan our time differently.

Changes and differences bring tricky feelings - but one of the good feelings they bring is the excitement over being able to plan how to do things our own way! This week's book is about just that - - how someone can look at a situation, know how it currently IS, and imagine all the ways they can make it better and more fun!

I imagine that you have been to a zoo. If you haven't, you at least know a thing or two about them. Have you ever read this Dr. Seuss book, *If I Ran The Zoo*? It is awesome! It sets a good example for us when we are thinking about how to change things to be more to our liking. Even if we can't make the changes, we can probably budge things in the direction we like. If you can't have a lion in your home, for instance, you could spend a little time looking more closely at your cat (if you have one). The same is true for wolves and dogs, or for a universe worth of insects you can find gathering on your windowsills outside each night!

Let's listen to *If I Ran The Zoo*, and look at the way Dr. Seuss draws an imaginary "best zoo ever." ((Pause to discuss a circumstance kids can re-think for themselves at home. Maybe it could be the way certain chores and jobs are done, or how they arrange their bedroom, or a way a porch can be turned into a mini water park, or a small patch of grass can be changed into a room with a tent.))

Storytime (read aloud)

Here we go! This lady is a nice reader of the book **If I Ran The Zoo** by Dr. Seuss.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgtjRAltKWA>

((copy and paste into browser if clicking does not work))

After Story (read aloud)

That story is a bit longer than others we've read, but what a wonderful little escape! Books can work magic in our minds. The first idea I have for an art project based on a book like this one is a drawing project. Creating things in words is powerful. Creating them in pictures is even cooler sometimes, especially when you are so good at putting imagination onto paper, like Dr. Seuss. Since my Pollywog friends are pretty young, though, I have to be careful with what I expect them to be able to draw. Some of our littlest buddies are still learning to hold pencils, after all!

So today, we will make our own zoo – but we will have a collection of textures instead of animals. We will catch them with art supplies, and learn a bit more about our home habitat.

Our Project (read aloud)

"Texture" is a word for the patterns on things that we can feel. Like a bumpy hard sidewalk, or a slick leaf with little line ridges on it. A carpet has a soft texture - sometimes very even, and sometimes with lots of little pieces that stick up like bits of yarn. For today's project, we are going to go hunting for hard textures in and around your home. Since your home is the place where you live, and it has all of the things you need to be happy and comfortable. It is just like an animal's living space in the zoo! Those living spaces are created to copy an animal's natural habitat, or happiest healthy living space. Your home is your habitat!

Materials –

- Paperless dark-colored crayons (a variety of 3 or more). This is a good project for the fat crayons designed to be held by the littlest hands, but regular crayons are fine for it. I also prefer to use small (about 1.5 - 2 inch) pieces of the crayons – so this is a good chance to use some of your broken crayons. We want the paper removed because we will be using the crayon sideways.

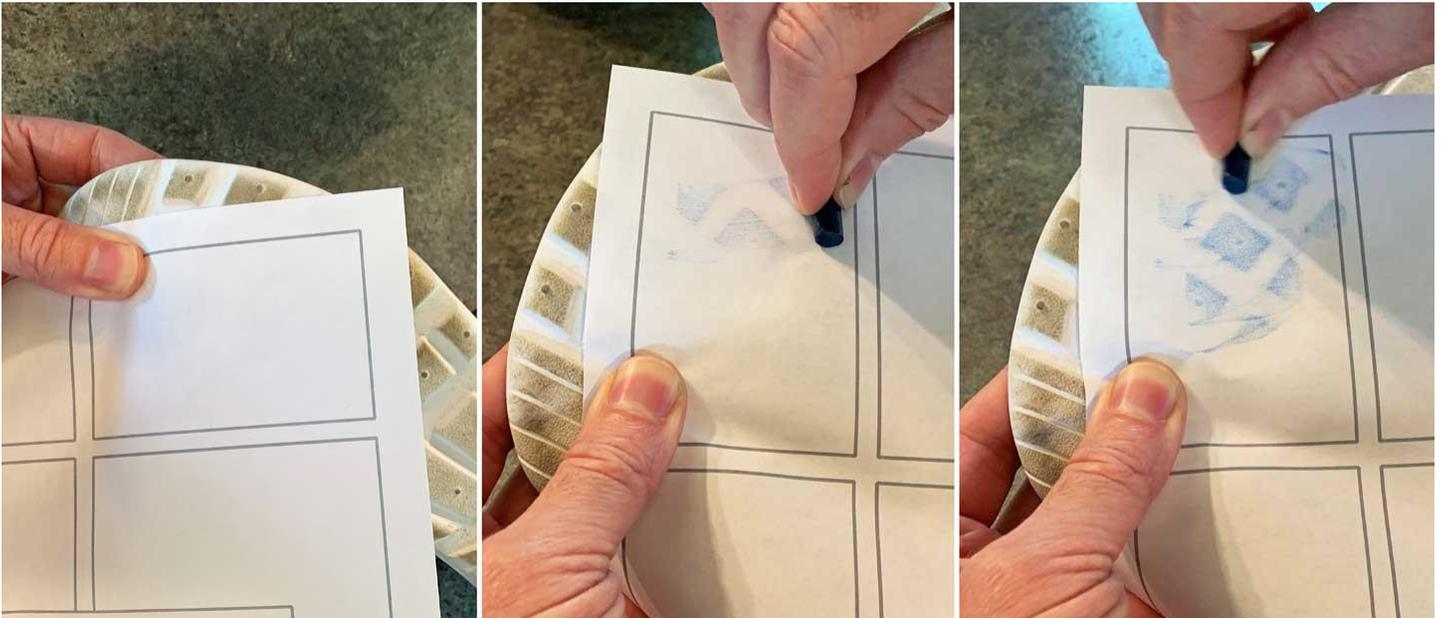
• A print-out of the accompanying worksheet. If you do not have the ability to print pages at home right now, you can also just divide a piece of printer paper into 8 different rectangles. Here is how the worksheet looks:



((We will be using materials during Pollywog At Home that families are likely to already have on hand. If I list an item you do not have, see if you can think of a substitute - - if you're really stuck for a solution, feel free to email me for advice! r.schiding.studio@comcast.net)

How To –

1) We can start collecting textures by capturing one we all usually have with us all the time - the bottom of your shoe! Lay your worksheet on the upturned bottom of your shoe, and use the side of the crayon to rub over the texture - right in one of the boxes on your paper! See how you can capture the texture? This may take a little practice, but I bet your grown-up helpers can easily show you how.

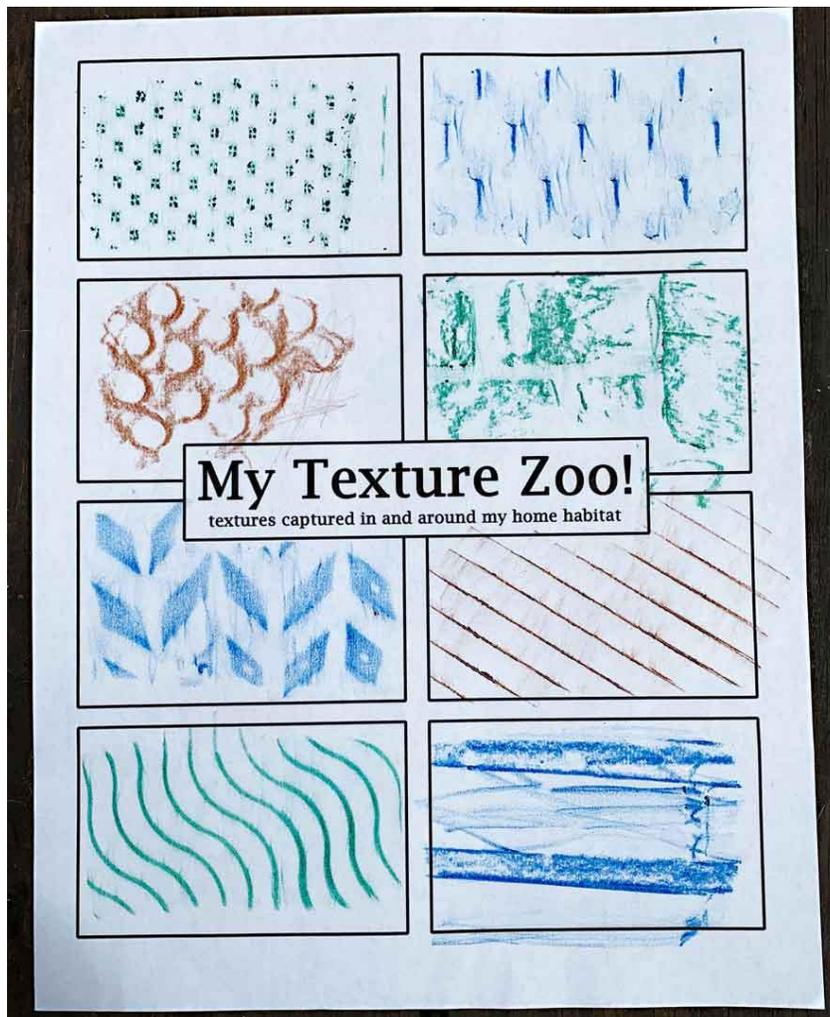


2) Now it's your job to find 7 more textures to capture. You can use different colored crayons (dark colors work best), if you want to. Here are some places you might want to check for textures:

The Driveway, a Brick Wall, a Cement Wall, a Rubber Welcome Mat, Other People's Shoes, Vents with Metal Grates, The Sides of Plastic Laundry Baskets, Legos Base Sheets, Sandpaper, Cheese Graters, Spatulas with Slits in them, Forks, Remote Controls, Keyboards, and more! The more you look, the more you will find textures all around you. Hard textures transfer best into your Texture Zoo, but you can notice the soft textures of carpets, sweaters, pet beds, towels, and pillows.

That's how it's done! I hope you have fun hunting your home (and around the outside of your home) for textures to put into your zoo, You can hang your Texture Zoo on the wall of your bedroom, and it will make you think of all the different places around your house that you recorded with crayon rubbings. If you want to, you can make more than one sheet to expand the size of your zoo. You could take a crayon and paper on a hike or trip with your family and collect textures that way, too.

Here is how my Texture Zoo turned out:



And that is all for today's Pollywog!

As we do Pollywog At Home, you are encouraged to send photos of your Pollywog projects to me at my email address: r.schiding.studio@comcast.net. I will share the work on the Library's website at the end of our Pollywog lessons. (I do not show children's faces in photos of their work that I share.)

You and I are lucky to be able to have art and storytime together. Thanks to **Wernersville Public Library!** Libraries are the best! They give us the chance to have wonderful things, without needing to spend extra money! Remember to thank them when you get the chance.

((You can receive credit for attending and working through this Pollywog At Home! Please follow this link to a form that will go to the Wernersville Public Library for an attendance prize: <https://forms.gle/fUHA7X11A6FCBFAP7> -- copy and paste into browser if clicking does not work))

The certificates of accomplishment are now available, and are awarded upon completion of five Pollywog At Home sessions in a row!