The Lion Sleeps Tonight – The Tokens - Notes

- **Activity types:** categorization, listening for specific words

- **Vocabulary:** animals

- **Level:** Primary / Elementary

- **Note:** This is based on the South African song Mbube, which means lion in Zulu, recorded by Solomon Linda in 1939. Folk singer Peter Seeger adapted it for the American market in 1952, but mistakenly transcribed the word Uyimbube ("you're a lion") as Wimoweh – this then developed into The Tokens' 1961 Number One hit, which also featured in the 1994 Disney movie The Lion King. In 2003 Ferrero used the song in an advertising campaign for Happy Hippo chocolates, sung by a hippopotamus and a dancing dog.

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1) Elicit a list of animals from students – perhaps you can give then one minute to write down as many as they can.

2) Discuss their answers – where are they most likely to find these animals, in the jungle, on a farm or at home as a pet?

3) Give each student a copy of the folded worksheet and ask them to write the name of the animal in the correct column.
   Key:

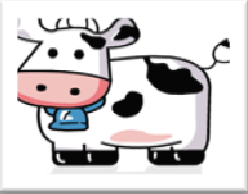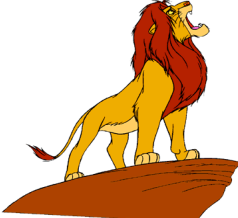| Jungle	Farm	Pet
1. tiger 2. elephant 6. monkey 7. lion	5. cow	3. cat 4. rabbit 8. dog
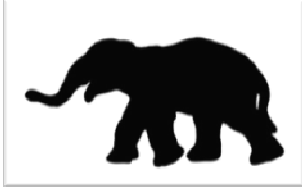
4) Feedback, then ask them to look at the list of words.

5) Play the song, which words do they hear?

6) Ask students to unfold the worksheet – sing (and dance to!) the song together.

Write the names of these animals in the correct columns below

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

Jungle	Farm	Pet

Listen to the song- which of these words do you hear?

farm – hush - jungle - lion - rabbit – shout – town - village

_____FOLD_____

Sing the song together:

In the jungle, the mighty jungle
The lion sleeps tonight
In the jungle, the quiet jungle
The lion sleeps tonight

Near the village, the peaceful village
The lion sleeps tonight
Near the village, the quiet village
the lion sleeps tonight

Hush my darling, don't fear my darling
The lion sleeps tonight
Hush my darling, don't fear my darling
The lion sleeps tonight

Worksheet written by Prof. Laura Casolaro, Rome