

ARM-OF-THE-SEA THEATER:

Study Guide for THE REJUVENARY RIVER CIRCUS



THE REJUVENARY RIVER CIRCUS is a play presented by Arm-of-the-Sea Theater. This play is part fairy tale and part live cartoon. First, a few words about the title: A *Circus* is a type of live performance made up of separate acts of skill and daring. Often animals perform in some of the Circus acts. *Rejuvenary* is a slightly made-up word meaning to feel healthy and young again. A *River*, of course, is a vein of water running across the surface of the land. Many shows by Arm-of-the-Sea are about the importance of water. This CIRCUS will give you much to see and think about. After the performance you will have a chance to ask the actors questions and find out some of our tricks.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

In this CIRCUS you will see one musician performing on many instruments including Drums, Trombone, and Piano. Sometimes he will be playing several of these at the same time! The musician makes different music for each act to keep the audience's attention. In addition to the music, he is the story-teller, and he makes up special voices for each character. Watch how busy the musician is during the performance!

In this CIRCUS you will see actors wearing many different masks. Masks change the actors' faces and help them become new characters. Maybe you have dressed up in a mask on Halloween. In this play you will see actors wearing masks of tiny water creatures, fishing boats masks, beaver masks, the mask of a teenage girl, a pair of crow masks, and a mask for the main character, Malakai the messenger. Most of these masks are made of paper-mache, which is lightweight, strong, and easy to paint.

In this CIRCUS you will see big puppet characters that dance and seem to speak. One puppet is the Sea. Another is the Mountain. Actors hidden inside make the puppets move. When you're watching this play remember that everything you see has been created by artists for your learning pleasure.

THE STORY

THE REJUVENARY RIVER CIRCUS tells the story of how the Sea and the Mountain became friends. And how an old man named Malakai became their messenger, carrying the gifts that the two friends send to each other.

Malakai carries the gift of rain from the Sea to the Mountain. The rain becomes a stream which Malakai carries back to the Sea. (See "Water Cycle" in the Appendix)

Malakai carries the gift of fish from the sea to the Mountain. The fish lay their eggs in the Mountain stream and Malakai carries the young fish back to the Sea. (See "Anandromous Fish" in the Appendix)

In this way Malakai becomes the River, connecting the Land and the Sea. (See "Watershed" in the Appendix)

On his travels Malakai sees the Mountain stream's food chain. This is performed as a dance in which tiny water plants are eaten by small water animals, which are eaten by small fishes, which are eaten by larger fish. All parts of Nature have food chains. Food chains allow all creatures ---including us humans----to eat.

On his travels Malakai meets two Beavers who are building a beaver dam. Their dam slows down the stream, and forms a Wetland. The Wetland filters and cleans the water.

On his travels Malakai meets a giant Oyster. The Oyster opens its shell to show how it filters and cleans the shallow parts of the Sea water.

Food chains, Wetlands, and Oysters are examples of how different parts of Nature provide important things that people need. (See "Eco-system Services" in the Appendix)

On his travels Malakai also meets a Crow who speaks in riddles. Here is one of Crow's riddles:

What can run but never walks? Has a mouth but never talks?

Has a bed but never sleeps? Has a head but never weeps?

Can you guess the answer? A River!

The Crow also takes a message from Malakai to his granddaughter, Rachel. She is sixteen years old and always glued to her smart phone, texting and browsing the Internet. Rachel thinks her grandfather is very old-fashioned. However, as the story goes on, she grows closer to him. And in the end, Rachel saves Malakai's life!

What happens is that people dump garbage and other kinds of pollution on the Mountain land. This pollution washes off the land and goes into the river, and Malakai has to carry it away. He begins to get sick. Then sicker. And even sicker. Finally, the pollution has made him so sick that Rachel has to rush him to the hospital. Unfortunately, the doctor can't help him get well.

But Rachel does some homework. She finds out that to heal her Grandpa she must stop the pollution that is washing into the River. She's does this, and also helps restore natural ways of cleaning water, like Wetlands and Oyster Beds. By the end of the play Malakai is feeling like new (*Rejuvenated!*). He's so happy he begins to dance.

YOUR LEARNING PLEASURE

There are a dozen different acts within this CIRCUS. They are fun to watch, but do they have anything to teach us? One lesson might be that, similar to the way our bodies can recover from sickness, so too unhealthy bodies of water and damaged lands can also bounce back to health ---- especially if we humans help in their recovery.

APPENDIX- Please adapt these terms and concepts to your grade level.

A Watershed is an area of land that collects water from rain or snow. The water collected in the watershed seeps into the ground or flows downstream into rivers, streams, and lakes.

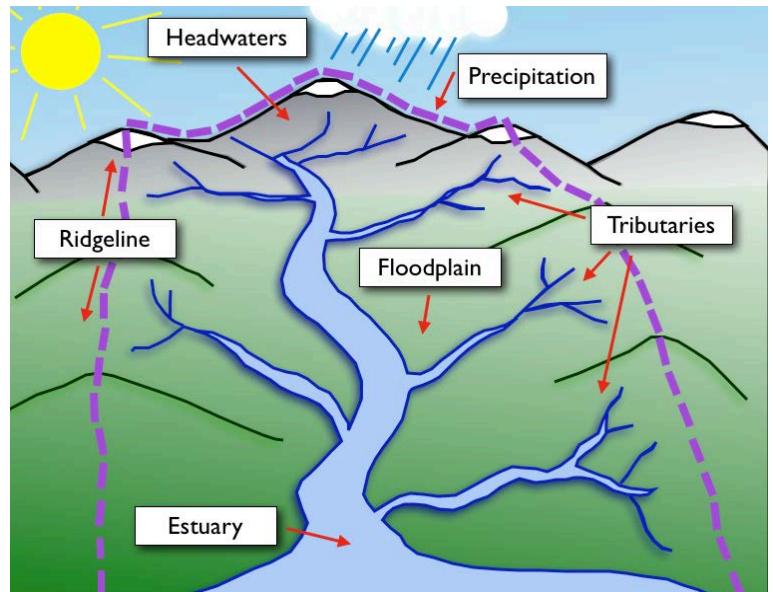
Here is a picture of a watershed. The purple dashed line marks the boundary of the watershed.

The HEADWATERS are the places where streams begin. Small TRIBUTARY streams join to make larger streams. Larger streams join to form rivers.

A FLOODPLAIN is an area that can become flooded when a river or stream overflows.

An ESTUARY is the area where the river meets the ocean. Fresh water from the river and saltwater from the sea mix here. A RIDGELINE is the top edge of the mountain that divides one watershed from another.

Find more watershed info and activities at <http://csarc.org/main/games/water/index.html>



Water Cycle - The earth has a limited amount of water. The water keeps going around and around and around in what we call the "Water Cycle". This cycle is made up of a few main parts: evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection. Find more info and activities at <http://www.kidzone.ws/water/>

Anadromous Fish are fish born in fresh water, that spend most of their life in the sea and return to fresh water to spawn. Salmon, smelt, shad, striped bass, herring and sturgeon are common examples of anadromous species. . Find more info about fish at <http://idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/season7/fish/facts.cfm>

Eco-system Services- The plants and animals found in a particular location are called an eco-system. These plants and animals live in a delicate balance and depend on each other to survive. Healthy eco-systems provide free "services" to human community such as clean air, clean water, nutrient recycling, fertile soil, and crop pollination.

You can find out more about Arm-of-the-Sea Theater by visiting our [WEBSITE](#) - You can also write to us and tell us what parts of our show you liked and what parts you didn't like.

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