

I Am A Camel

Here in the United States, it has become more and more difficult to stay within the “politically correct” bounds during school “holiday” concerts. Christmas is personally my favorite time of year, and I’m always looking for ways to celebrate the season without stepping outside those bounds. One way I have found, is to sing songs about all the wonderful animals we seem to hear about only at this time of year. Camels, donkeys, doves, partridges, lions and lambs, horses with bells, of course, reindeer! So this month’s song may be sung strictly from a non-religious or religious point of view, depending on your situation. I like to check out one of the easy non-fiction books on camels at the library, and read to children before singing the song. There are more ideas below for information to share. This is a calm and quiet song that should spark children's imagination on what it must be like to ride a camel across the desert on a warm star-filled night.

This song is also available on my CD “A Season for Singing”.

Ideas for Discussion With Children

- ◆ Camels are called ships of the desert because they are used to carry things and people.
- ◆ Camels stand seven feet high
(Show children how high that is, and therefore how high they would sit on top of a camel)
- ◆ Riding through the desert at night, there are no roads and no lights, and one must steer by the stars.
- ◆ Camels, unlike horses, do not lift one foot at a time when walking. They lift both left, then both right feet. So they rock back and forth. When singing the song, have children pat one leg, then the other as they rock back and forth like a camel. This should be very soothing and restful.

I am A Camel

I am a camel, a ship of the desert
Carrying packages, carrying kings
I rock as I walk back and forth cross the desert
I’ll carry you if a song you will sing

Seven feet high in the air you can ride
On a hump on my back as we move cross the sand
We follow the stars and we know where we are
In the cool of the night we will cross this land

I am a camel, a ship of the desert
Carrying packages, carrying kings
I rock as I walk back and forth cross the desert
I’ll carry you if a song you will sing
I’ll carry you if a song you will bring

