

**Presentation by:** Melanie Gonzalez, 2nd grade  
**Book:** *Christian the Hugging Lion* by Justin Richardson & Peter Parnell  
**Science Standards reached:** SC.2.L.16, SC.2.L.17.1, SC.2.L.17.2 (CPALMS.ORG)

Before Reading:

- Go over what habitat lions usually live in-show you child pictures.
- Watch the Lion King with your child and point out the many habitats.
- Go over who is at the top of the food chain in a savannah and why.
- Go over words/places such as: London, Brazil, yacht, the habitat of a camel, paisley, peering, English Channel, clumsy, reluctantly, gazelles, pub (briefly explain that), Kenya and location.
- Talk about the life cycle of a lion.
- Discuss what baby pets do in a house (destroy furniture, make messes, etc.)
- Talk about the characteristics of a lion.



During Reading:

- Talk about the cover of the book. Ask about how this is similar and or different than what your child just saw in regards to lions.
- Change your voice as you read each character's lines and or assign a specific character to your child.
- Have your child read to you as you act out the story or vice versa.
- Talk about what your child would like to buy at a store like Harrod's.
- Explain why a lion might need more room to move around as opposed to living in an apartment.



After Reading:

- Have a stuffed lion to act out what the character of Christian is doing.
  - Relate the story to real life experiences. For example, when Christian lives in the apartment he destroyed many objects. Talk about a time when your pet/someone else's pet made a mess in the house.
  - Discuss a time when the water at the beach, pool, or even the shower was freezing. What did you or your child do when dealing with the coldness?
  - Talk about a tough decision your child and or you had to make. What decision was made and what made it so hard to come to a conclusion?
  - Talk about what foods cats usually eat.
- After Reading:
- Watch the video on the real Christian here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bluxO-C2IzE>
  - Compare and contrast the habitat of Christian versus a normal lion.
  - Compare and contrast the types of foods Christian ate verses a normal lion.
  - Make a savannah out of clay, paint, and or other materials that are located in your habitat.
  - Research other places lions have lived in (houses, farms, etc.).
  - Look up the life cycles of other cats and talk about their similarities.
  - Talk about why not all cats need to have the same habitats.
  - Find more activities visit [www.KIDS.SimonandSchuster.com](http://www.KIDS.SimonandSchuster.com)

