
Wait, Can My Cat Slide, *Too!*? A Lesson About the Heritage of Play

A companion lesson for “Heritage Storytime Episode 4: Let’s Play Together!;/Juguemos Junto!”
Visit LearnPhillyHeritage.org/Stories to view the episode and access additional resources.

What: All humans play - *somehow, sometime, somewhere*, so we all have that activity in common. We can share play virtually or in person, across neighborhoods or countries, using various resources and settings. Perhaps we can draw a picture, or write about, or create a model of our idea for a slide for ourselves and our friends, *even maybe for our pets, too?!*

Why: Recognizing Philadelphia’s status as a World Heritage City gives us the chance to explore how all of us play here in our city, and also all around the world. Our city’s [Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse](http://SmithMemorialPlayground.org) (SMPP), its past and present, is our starting point, especially its famous wooden slide. SMPP opened in 1899 as part of the American Playground Movement and contained numerous play structures and toys meant for both indoor and outdoor use. The Ann Newman Giant Wooden Slide is one of the earliest features of the playground since it was built in 1905. SMPP’s mission is to provide and promote opportunities for unstructured free play for children who live all over Philadelphia and even the world. Experiencing this historical slide is a great window into imagining children sliding and playing together all over the world!



Ann Newman Giant Wooden Slide, Smith Memorial Playground
(image credit: Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse)

How: Here are some possibilities for families, teachers, and students:

1. Depending upon the age, children and students can draw or write about their ideas for what would make the *perfect* slide. Teachers can add vocabulary words to reinforce the experience of thinking about or looking at examples of slides.
2. If they have visited SMPP, children and students can talk about what the visit was like, what else they saw, and what they did when they were there. (Remember, [Smith Playground and Playhouse](#) has many different types of play equipment.) They can also look into scheduling a classroom visit!
3. Children and students can use the images and links below to discover more about slides in the past and present. For example, in Set A, students can ask questions about the children in the images from SMPP's Ann Newman Giant Wooden Slide. What would the sliding have sounded like? What would it be like to have all of their best friends on the slide at the same time? What would it feel like to wait their turn? What else did they notice about the scene?
4. Students can use Set B to explore the water slides in Australia and Brazil. What would sliding on a water slide be like? The links to other sources and Youtube videos will take students all around the world to see more examples, and lead to more questions to pursue.
5. Students can imagine what it would be like to bring their pet along on a slide, too. They can draw examples of possible models of slides that would work for themselves with their pets. What sounds would their pet make while sliding? What sounds would they make while sliding? Can they make a model out of cardboard or Legos?
6. Here are a few more questions to talk, draw, or write about:
 - What kind of playing is best when you are playing on your own? Inside, outside?
 - What are the best toys? Why?
 - What kinds of playing does your best friend like?
7. In [Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia | Playgrounds](#), there is a great deal of information and images about Philadelphia's playgrounds that teachers and parents can share with students.
8. Everyone can use [What Games Do Kids in Other Countries Play?](#) to learn about games children play around the world.
9. This video shows children singing and playing around the world, and can lead to comparisons and contrasts, [Celebration \(Kool and The Gang\) | Playing For Change | Song Around The World](#).
10. In [Slide!; Deslizate!](#), parents and teachers can read what it is like to slide on SMPP's Ann Newman Giant Wooden Slide, and share in Samira's fun on the slide, in Spanish and in English!
11. How about comparing sledding and sliding? Differences, similarities, have you done both? Which is better?

12. Could we create a short dance with the words as described or used in the book?

Here are our suggestions, but you can make your own.

Grab a sack.....bend down to the ground

Up the ramp.....coming up up and above

'Round the bend.....make circle around yourself or do a turn or a spin

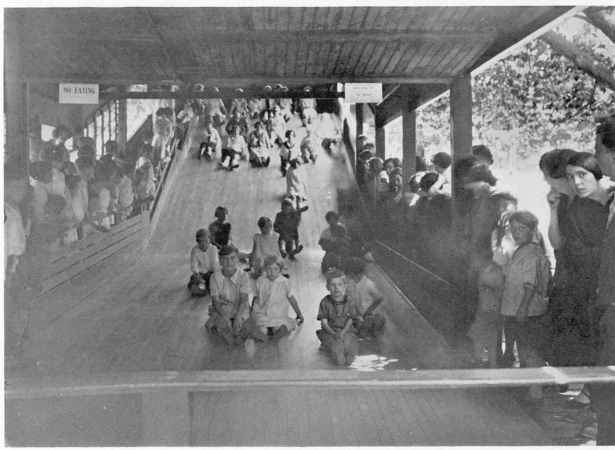
Over the bridge.....leap!

We made it.....celebrate with jump

***Slide, slide, slide*.....slide, jump and leap anywhere you want to!!!**

Resources:

Set A:



Ann Newman Giant Wooden Slide, Smith Memorial Playground, 1932
(image credit: Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse)



Ann Newman Giant Wooden Slide, Smith Memorial Playground, early 20th century
(image credit: Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse)

Set B:



Belmont Park, Perth, Australia
(Image credit: Guinnessworldrecords.com)



Aldeia Park Resort, Brazil
(Image credit: Guinnessworldrecords.com)

Water slides around the world:

[9 best water slides around the world](#)

[7 of the Craziest Water Slides around the World](#)

[Pictures: The world's biggest slides - CBBC Newsround](#)

[IXTAPAN, RIO BRAVO, MEJORES OLAS](#) (Mexico, Youtube)

[TOP 25 Water Slides in the World!](#) (Youtube)