

ON AND OFF SCREEN

Madagascar

DreamWorks Animation (2006)



STARRING

(voices of) Ben Stiller,
Chris Rock,
David Schwimmer and
Jada Pinkett Smith

The story on screen so far...

Marty, a zebra in New York's Central Park Zoo, is starting to get tired of his easy, pampered life and dreams of living in his natural habitat of wild open spaces. His friends Alex, Melvin and Gloria are quite happy where they are but when Marty escapes from the zoo one night, they go out looking for him. It's difficult for a zebra, hippopotamus (Gloria), giraffe (Melvin) and lion (Alex) to go unnoticed in New York City, so they are soon captured and the zoo officials decide it would be better to ship them back to their native Africa. However, their crates fall off the ship and they find themselves on a desert island. The situation is apparently similar to Chuck Noland's in *Cast Away* but in actual fact it couldn't be more different!



Over to you

- 1** Here's a list of animals. If you don't know any of them look them up in a bilingual dictionary. Now watch the extract and tick the animals you see in the scene (you should see 7).

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> whale | <input type="checkbox"/> deer | <input type="checkbox"/> giraffe | <input type="checkbox"/> shark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> star fish | <input type="checkbox"/> horse | <input type="checkbox"/> dolphin | <input type="checkbox"/> cat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hippo | <input type="checkbox"/> rhinoceros | <input type="checkbox"/> crab | <input type="checkbox"/> bear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lion | <input type="checkbox"/> monkey | <input type="checkbox"/> zebra | <input type="checkbox"/> parrot |

- 2** Can you describe how Alex intends to get Melvin out of the crate? What does he pretend he's playing?

- 3** How does the zebra, Marty, get to the beach?

- 4** Who seems to be the most intelligent character? And the most stupid? Why do you think the writers made this choice?

- 5** Watch and listen to the scene and write who says the following. Put 'M' for Marty, 'G' for Gloria, 'A' for Alex and 'Mel' for Melvin.

1. 'Alex is that you?'
2. 'I got you buddy'
3. 'Giraffe corner pocket'
4. 'All right boys the fun's over'
5. 'I really don't have anything on me right now'
6. 'We're all here together, safe and sound'

- 6** How do you say 'buddy' and 'safe and sound' in Italian?

- 7** In what ways does this island seem more hospitable than the one in *Cast Away*?