

# The Gecko

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## Tips for Telling

*Let your audience tell you which animals tried to dance for water. Vary the pacing and pitch of your chant to match the animal's demeanour. The audience may want to chant along with you. Encourage them to join you in the chanting when the Gecko's turn comes. Avoid letting any other very tiny animals dance, so that Gecko's small size will be a contrast to his larger competitor's.*

*If offering a girl as a prize annoys you, change the prize. Omit Big Lizard's comments about peeing in the pants if it isn't appropriate for your audience.*

## The Story

Once a drought came to the forest.

All the animals were thirsty.

There was no water to drink at all.

The people were thirsty too.

At last one woman said:

"We must find water is some way.

Here is the dry stream bed where the river once ran.

Surely if the strongest animals dig, we can find water.

My beautiful daughter here will marry the one who brings us water and saves us from this thirst."

The animals gathered to consider the offer.

The girl was so beautiful.

And perhaps the woman was right.

Perhaps they *could* dig for water in the dry stream bed.

To make the contest fair, the animals felt that everyone should dig the same way.

Wart hog said:

"Dig with our tusks!

Dig with our tusks!"

"That's the way!" agreed the Elephant.

But the Rhino said:

"No! Dig with our horns!

That's the way."

"I don't agree!" shouted the Hippo.

"We should *stomp* in the dirt!"

"That's not fair," said Python,

"I don't have any legs!"

At last the animals took a vote.

It was decided that they would dig for water by stomping with their hind legs.

This seemed fair to everyone by Python.

Python was unhappy, but he was out-voted.

Elephant stepped into the dry stream bed.

"I am the largest.

So I will try first."

He began to stomp.

"Elephant! Elephant!  
Heavy Heavy Heavy  
Elephant! Elephant!  
Water Water Water."

Elephant stomped and stomped.

He chanted and chanted.

No water appeared.

After a while the Elephant go tired.

"I give up.

There's no water here."

Elephant quit.

Other large animals wanted to try.

Hippo took a turn.

"Hippo! Hippo!  
Heavy Heavy Heavy  
Hippo! Hippo!  
Water Water Water."

Hippo stomped and stomped.

He chanted and chanted.

No water came.

At last Hippo wore out.

"I give up.

There's no water here."

Hippo quit.

All the large animals had a turn.

No one could find water.

The middle size animals began to try.

Monkey took a turn.

And Rabbit.

Iguana had a turn too.

No one could find water.

At last even the small animals tried.

Rat tried.

Guinea Pig too.

When Monkey saw those small animals starting to stomp, he said:

"We might as well all go home.

If the big animals couldn't do it,

those small ones don't have a chance."

Eventually, every animal had tried.

All had failed to bring water.

The animals started to leave.

But one tiny animal spoke up:

"I didn't have a turn."

I didn't get a turn yet."

Let me have a turn"  
It was the *Gecko* ... the tiny little lizard.  
Gecko's friend Big Lizard started to laugh at that.  
"A puny little thing like *you*?  
Don't be ridiculous!  
You'll just make a fool of yourself."  
But Gecko wanted to try.  
"I don't think we should give up yet.  
I don't want to quit.  
Let *me* try."

The animals had stomped a deep hole into the bottom of the dry stream bed.  
Gecko climbed down into the hole.  
He was so tiny you could barely see him down in the hole.  
But he began to stomp.  
"Gecko! Gecko!  
Heavy Heavy Heavy  
Gecko! Gecko!  
Water Water Water!"

The other animals came back to watch this tiny little Gecko dancing around in the big hole.  
They laughed and pointed.  
"Look at that silly little Gecko.  
His back is all bent over.  
He is so scrawny."  
They laughed and laughed.  
Gecko felt embarrassed,  
But he didn't stop dancing.  
"I can't help the way I look.  
Everybody's laughing at me.  
I can't help the way I look.  
Everybody's looking at me."  
Poor little Gecko.  
He felt so sad.  
But he kept right on stomping in the hole.  
"Gecko! Gecko!  
Heavy Heavy Heavy  
Gecko! Gecko!  
Water Water Water!"

Gecko danced and danced.  
He wouldn't stop.  
After a long while someone called out:  
"look! there's mud down by Gecko's feet.  
It looks wet there."  
At that Big Lizard fell right over laughing.  
"I know what happened," said Big Lizard,  
Gecko probably peed in his pants!"  
Poor Gecko.  
Now everyone was laughing harder than ever.

But Gecko knew what was really happening.  
He didn't stop.  
His face was so red.  
But he kept right on dancing, chanting:  
"Gecko! Gecko!  
Heavy Heavy Heavy  
Gecko! Gecko!  
Water Water Water!"

And do you know it really *was* water coming into the hole.  
He hadn't wet his pants after all.  
It really *was* water.  
It came right in ...  
Up to his little knees  
Gecko was splashing and singing,  
"Gecko! Gecko!  
Heavy Heavy Heavy  
Gecko! Gecko!  
Water Water Water!"

All the animals came running back to see what was happening.  
"It's Gecko!  
He's found Water!"

Elephant came trumpeting right down into the stream bed.  
He grabbed little Gecko in his trunk.  
and *threw* him into the bushes.  
Then Elephant began to stomp in the hole.  
"Elephant! Elephant!  
Heavy Heavy Heavy  
Elephant! Elephant!  
Water Water Water."

But the woman stoop up.  
"That elephant is not the one who found the water.  
Get him out of there.  
Bring back Gecko!"  
So Elephant left in disgrace.  
Gecko was brought back from the bushes where elephant had tossed him.  
His little leg had been hurt when he was thrown.  
"Do you think you can still dance?"  
"I can try."

Little Gecko slowly climbed back down into the hole.  
He began to dance once more.  
"Gecko! Gecko!  
Heavy Heavy Heavy  
Gecko! Gecko!  
Water Water Water!"  
And this time everyone chanted *with* him.  
"GECKO! GECKO!  
HEAVY HEAVY HEAVY

GECKO! GECKO!  
WATER WATER WATER!"

Here came the water!  
Up to his waist!  
Up to his chin!  
Gecko had to scramble out of that hole.  
It filled with cool, clear water!  
There was water for everyone,  
even the Elephant.  
And tiny Gecko ...  
Gecko who would not give up ...  
He was the one who married the beautiful girl.

*contributed by John Shipline, ADC Training, Talbot Trails*