

Teaching Guide to *Shortcuts* by Jeff Harris

Introduction

Shortcuts by Jeff Harris is a beautifully illustrated, fact-packed page that makes learning fun. Each week, *Shortcuts'* multicultural cast (Juanita, K., Roland, Junior and James) offers facts, riddles, jokes and puzzles to help kids learn about science, geography, animals, food, history and holidays.

Each teaching guide provides ideas for expanding the lesson and creating discussion and learning activities for your students. The grade level for the guides is usually 3rd to 4th, but they can be adapted for use at other levels. The guides are broken down into four areas:

1. Questions for Discussion and Further Study

Designed to help students think and research, not just give one-word answers

2. Activity Ideas

Designed to allow students to be creative and teach themselves

3. Use the News

Designed to have students use the news in studying each topic

4. Quick Quiz

Designed to be adaptable to several grade levels, evaluate students' comprehension and build vocabulary and math skills

You might use the teaching guides in the following ways:

Questions for Discussion and Further Study: Engage the entire class by asking each question aloud and listing the students' answers on the board. Or have them use reference resources to give their own answers to the questions. Allow them to discuss other students' answers after they've researched the topics. Key words or phrases that can help students search for more information are italicized.

Activity Ideas: Give the students a time limit to research their projects, using library or study time. By having the students cite their resources you can check their work; or, alternatively, tell

them which resource(s) you prefer them to use.

Use the News: These can be worked on individually but we suggest they work in groups to learn teamwork skills.

Quick Quiz: We suggest you review the quizzes ahead of time and change the phrasing or difficulty level based on the students' abilities.

Shortcuts: HANGING WITH CHIMPANZEES

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Objective: After completing the exercises, students should have a better understanding of chimpanzees.

Subject Areas: The following information about chimpanzees will be discussed:

- Chimpanzee behavior
- Human/chimpanzee similarities and differences
- Who was Jane Goodall?

Evaluation: Students may be evaluated using the following point scale:

Four points: Information is accurate, organized, shows creative thought/use of materials

Three points: Information is accurate and organized

Two points: Information is mostly accurate; organization needs some work

One point: Significant inaccuracies; lacks organization

Topics for Discussion and Further Study

1. Are there other benefits to chimpanzees grooming each other besides cleanliness?
2. How do chimpanzees communicate with each other?

Activity Ideas

- Genetically, chimpanzees are almost the same as humans. We share many behavioral traits also. Compare the similarities and differences between humans and chimps by making a chart that lists as many of each as you can identify. Ex. Similarities – both live in communities, differences – chimps spend half the day in trees.
- Jane Goodall has probably educated the world about chimpanzees more than any other individual. Who is she? What events and people shaped her life? What is she doing today? Research and write a synopsis of her life. Here is her official Web page: <http://www.janegoodall.ca/goodall-bio-timeline.php>

Use the News

Chimpanzees use twigs as tools to capture bugs to eat. What tools do humans use? Read the newspaper and list the multitude of tools we use every day.

Answers to the Quiz

1.) a, 2.) a, 3.) a, 4.) c, 5.) b, 6.) b, 7.) bands 8.) tools, 9.) 28 , 10.) 7

Quick Quiz – Chimpanzees

1. Chimpanzees sometimes eat meat.
a. True b. False
2. Chimpanzees make a nest - _____.
a. every night b. every week c. once a year d. never
3. Chimps sometimes have wars.
a. True b. False
4. The _____ of a chimpanzee tend(s) to darken as it gets older.
a. eyes b. fur c. skin d. teeth
5. Baby chimps have short tails.
a. True b. False
6. Chimps live mainly in _____.
a. grasslands b. forests c. deserts d. zoos

Vocabulary Comprehension

7. Each chimp community is divided into small groups called _____.
8. Jane Goodall was the first scientist to document chimps hunting and using _____.

Math Comprehension (subtraction, division, addition, fractions)

9. If a community of chimps had 4 bands with approximately 7 per band, how many chimps would there be in the community?
10. If $\frac{1}{3}$ of a community of 21 chimps was male, how many males would that be?