

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: GETTING TO THE HEART OF STONEHENGE

For release the week of: June 14, 2010

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

Subject Areas: The following information regarding Stonehenge will be discussed:

- What does Stonehenge look like?
- Making your own Stonehenge
- Theories about Stonehenge

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. What are some of the theories about how the big stones were moved?
2. What are some of the theories about what Stonehenge was used for?

Activity Ideas

- There are several online virtual views of Stonehenge. Here's one that lets you get a 360-degree look around. <http://www.360soundview.com/stonehenge/alterstone.htm>
- Research what the basic arrangement of the stones and their sizes are. Then use modeling clay to create your own small version of Stonehenge. It could be a very small model for each student, or the whole class could make a tabletop model – each student contributing to the display.

Use the News

Stonehenge is an historical site, thousands of years old. Newspapers generally report on current events. However, sometimes historical facts are included in a news story. Can you find any historical information in the newspaper? Share what you find with the class. How old is the information? Weeks, years, centuries?

Answers to the Quiz

1.) b, 2.) d 3.) b, 4.) b, 5.) a, 6.) a, 7.) bluestones, 8.) henge 9.) 5, 10.) 1,500

Quick Quiz – Stonehenge

1. Stonehenge was built by the Druids.
a. True b. False
2. Stonehenge is a _____ of massive stones.
a. triangle b. pentagon c. square d. circle
3. The massive stones of Stonehenge were transported on huge wheeled carts.
a. True b. False
4. Stonehenge was constructed during _____ separate phases that spanned more than 1,500 years.
a. two b. three c. four d. five
5. There are dozens of smaller henges located throughout England.
a. True b. False
6. Five stone archways, called _____ were erected in a horseshoe shape.
a. trilithons b. bluestones c. sarsens d. henges

Vocabulary Comprehension

7. The original circular wooden structure was replaced with volcanic rocks called _____.
8. A _____ is a prehistoric monument that consists of a circular area enclosed by a bank or ditch.

Math Comprehension (subtraction, division, addition, fractions)

9. One-fifth of a 25-ton stone would be how many tons?
10. How many years passed from 3,000 BC to 1,500 BC?