

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: BUSINESS AS USUAL WITH THE PHOENICIANS

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

Subject Areas: The following information about the Phoenicians will be discussed:

- Famous Phoenicians
- Phoenician ships
- Phoenician language

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. Who was the Phoenician named Pythagoras? Why is that name found in some math books?
2. How did Alexander the Great defeat the forces of the Phoenician city Tyre?

Activity Ideas

- The Phoenicians were great sailors. They traveled great distances north and south of their homeland. What kind of ships did they use? Research and report on what these ships were like. Use both words and pictures.
- Most languages originate from Phoenician. What does ancient Phoenician look like?

Use the News

- What is the modern equivalent of Phoenicia? What cities are there? Research and write a tourism report about what you can visit in this area.

Answers to the Quiz

1.) a, 2.) a, 3.) b, 4.) c, 5.) a, 6.) b, 7.) red men, 8.) states 9.) 98 miles, 10.) A triangle (equilateral)

Quick Quiz — The Phoenicians

1. What is now Israel used to be part of ancient Phoenicia.
a. True b. False
2. One of the Phoenician's most popular articles of trade was expensive _____ cloth. a. purple b. yellow c. red d. golden
3. The ancient Phoenicians built many lavish temples and palaces.
a. True b. False
4. One of the Phoenicians' greatest accomplishments was the creation of a(n) _____.
a. temple b. pyramid c. alphabet d. bridge
5. The Phoenicians were excellent sailors.
a. True b. False
6. A type of wood called _____ was highly prized and traded by the Phoenicians.
a. oak b. cedar c. rosewood d. mahogany

Vocabulary Comprehension

7. The name "Phoenicians" came from Greek words that meant "_____."
8. The Phoenicians lived in city-_____ that consisted of walled cities and surrounding farmland.

Math Comprehension (subtraction, division, addition, fractions)

9. If a sailor traveled 120 miles south, but was blown back north 22 miles, how far south will he be from where he started?
10. If someone sails one direction 50 miles, then another direction 50 miles, then a third direction 50 miles and ends up back at the starting point, what geometric shape will the ship's path have created?