

Teaching Guide to *Shortcuts* by Jeff Harris

Introduction

Shortcuts by Jeff Harris is a beautifully illustration and, 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: DIVING WITH JACQUES COUSTEAU

For release the week of: June 25, 2012

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

Subject Areas: The following information about Jacques Cousteau will be discussed:

- The Cousteau Society
- His films/TV shows
- The invention of the aqua-lung

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 aqua-lungs still used? Is there a new invention for divers?
2. What does the Cousteau Society do?

Activity Ideas

- Try to find a copy of one of Jacques Cousteau's films or TV shows to watch as a class. The public library or the Internet may have some you can watch.
- How did the invention of the aqua-lung change undersea exploration? Research and report on how they worked and how they helped divers.

Use the News

- Jacques Cousteau was passionate about informing people about the ocean. Are there any people currently in the news who are trying to teach people about something? Read the newspaper and share any news you find about people wanting to tell their “story.”

Answers to the Quiz

1.) a, 2.) c, 3.) a, 4.) d, 5.) b, 6.) a, 7.) aqua-lung, 8.) Undersea 9.) 19 ft., 10.) 41 min.

Quick Quiz — Jacques Cousteau

1. Cousteau produced many films and television shows.
a. True b. False
2. Jacques Cousteau was born in _____.
a. America b. Germany c. France d. Canada

3. Jacques Cousteau was a member of the French navy.
a. True b. False
4. Jacques Cousteau's research ship was called the _____.
a. Beagle b. Black Pearl c. Enterprise d. Calypso
5. His first underwater film was called "10,000 Leagues Under the Sea."
a. True b. False
6. The aqua-lung allowed divers to _____ underwater.
a. breathe b. see c. hear d. swim

Vocabulary Comprehension

7. In 1943, Jacques Cousteau and Emile Gagnan invented the _____.
8. He made a series of documentaries called "The _____ World of Jacques Cousteau."

Math Comprehension (subtraction, division, addition, fractions)

9. If a diver went down 30 ft., then came up 9 ft., then came up another 2 ft., how close to the surface would the diver be?
10. If a diver had enough air in her aqua-lung to breathe for 60 minutes, and then used 19 minutes of it, how many minutes would be left?