

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 KNOW THE GRIZZLY BEAR

For release the week of: June 10, 2013

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

Subject Areas: The following information about grizzly bears will be discussed:

- How far do bears roam?
- What is hibernation?
- How does a grizzly bear compare with other types of bears?

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. Can a grizzly bear climb trees?
2. Do grizzly bears stay in one area their whole lives?

Activity Ideas

- What is hibernation? Do grizzly bears really sleep all winter? Why don't they starve? Research and report on what a grizzly bear does during the winter.
- How does a grizzly bear compare to other bears? Which is the biggest or smallest? Where does each kind live? What do they eat? How heavy are they? Have each member of a group of students collect information on a different bear. Then, have them display some of the facts on a comparison-chart poster.

Use the News

- If a science reporter were writing a newspaper article, she would include information about "who, what, where, when, how, and why." Choose an article in the paper to find the answers to these questions. Label the facts you find with each of these words.

Answers to the Quiz

1.) b, 2.) b, 3.) a, 4.) d, 5.) a, 6.) d, 7.) boar, 8.) guard, 9.) 440 lbs., 10.) 8 mph

Quick Quiz — Grizzly bears

1. A grizzly's claws become darker in color as they age.
a. True b. False
2. The grizzly bear gets its name from _____-tipped hairs that give the bear's fur a grizzled appearance.
a. black b. white c. brown d. red
3. Grizzly bears are active mainly at night.
a. True b. False
4. The scientific name for the grizzly bear is *Ursus arctos horribilis*, which means "horrible _____ bear."
a. snow b. large c. southern d. northern
5. A charging grizzly bear can run as fast as 65 km/h.
a. True b. False
6. Grizzlies are classified as _____ because they eat both meat and plants.
a. herbivores b. carnivores c. vegetarians d. omnivores

Vocabulary Comprehension

7. A male grizzly is called a "_____."
8. The longer _____ hairs on a grizzly bear are white at the tips.

Math Comprehension (subtraction, division, addition, fractions)

9. If a grizzly weighed 380 lbs. in the spring, and put on 60 lbs. over the summer, how much would it weigh?
10. If a bear ran 40 mph, then slowed to $\frac{1}{5}$ that speed, how fast would it be moving?