

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: DROPPING IN ON SURFING

For release the week of: January 27, 2014

Objective: After completing the exercises, students should have a better understanding about surfing.

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

- Surfing skills
- Famous surfers
- Surfing competitions

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 does it mean when a surfer “hangs ten”? Why doesn't the board flip?
2. Why is surfing sometimes called a “subculture”? What is a subculture?

Activity Ideas

- Modern surfboards allow surfers to perform tricks that old boards weren't capable of. What are the moves and tricks you might see at a surfing competition? What do judges look for when they score a surfer's ride? Research surfing competitions and create a poster with pictures printed and pasted on the poster displaying the basics of surfing competitions. A computer presentation with pictures and short videos could also be mad with PowerPoint.
- Who were the people that became famous surfers? Who are the all-time greats? Who are the current champions? Research and write a biographical report about one of the stars of surfing.

Use the News

- In the early 1900s, not many people around the world were familiar with surfing, but it quickly became a very popular activity. What “new” sport or activity is just getting popular today? Write a brief sports article about this activity, explaining what the sport is and what is currently happening with it. Who are the “stars”? Where is it popular?

Answers to the Quiz

1.) a, 2.) b, 3.) a, 4.) d, 5.) b, 6.) b , 7.) fin, 8.) foam, 9.) 151 lbs., 10.) 79 ft.

Quick Quiz — Surfing

1. Hawaiian missionaries thought surfing was sinful.
a. True b. False
2. Most modern surfboards are covered with _____.
a. wood b. fiberglass c. metal d. rubber
3. Ancient Hawaiian longboards were made of wood from the wiliwili tree.
a. True b. False
4. _____ was a Hawaiian Olympic swimmer and famous surfer in the early 1900s.
a. George Freeth b. Garrett McNamara c. Don Ho d. Duke Kahanamoku
5. In 1778, Captain James T. Kirk became the first westerner to see Hawaiian surfers.
a. True b. False
6. Most surfers ride waves that are about _____ high.
a. 1 to 2 ft b. 3 to 6 ft c. 6 to 12 ft d. 15 to 25 ft

Vocabulary Comprehension

7. Tom Blake improved surfboards by including a tail _____.
8. Most modern surfboards have polyurethane _____ inside them.

Math Comprehension (subtraction, division, addition, fractions)

9. What's the difference in weight between a 176-lb. board and a 25-lb. board?
10. How much bigger is a 98-ft. wave than a 19-ft. wave?