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: SURFING THE INTERNET

For release the week of: December 10, 2012

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

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

- The world without the Internet
- What is the Internet mostly used for?
- Basic structure of the Internet

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. How would modern society change if the Internet suddenly stopped working everywhere?
2. What is spam? Do you read it? Why or why not?

Activity Ideas

- What do you use the Internet for? What do other people use it for? Brainstorm examples of its uses, and make a class list. Now, can you think of future uses? What are some "futuristic" ideas of how it could be used? Write or verbally share your ideas
- One of the original reasons the Internet was created was to create a communications network that a nuclear attack could not totally disable. How was this accomplished? How is the Internet able to keep going, even if there is massive damage due to atomic bombs? Research the basic structure of the Internet and describe how it could still function if some of it was damaged.

Use the News
- Is the Internet or products related to its use mentioned in the newspaper? Read the paper and identify as many examples as you can find.

Answers to the Quiz

1.) a, 2.) a, 3.) b, 4.) d, 5.) a, 6.) b , 7.) social, 8.) tweets, 9.) 33%, 10.) 12

Quick Quiz — The Internet

1. Most of the email in the world is spam.
a. True b. False

2. The popularity of the World Wide Web increased with the introduction of the _____
web browser in 1993.
a. Mosaic b. Explorer c. Google d. Apple

3. Email is the most popular part of the Internet.
a. True b. False

4. One of the first webcams in the world was pointed at a _____.
a. bird nest b. military base c. school d. coffee maker

5. The Internet began in the 1960s.
a. True b. False

6. URL stands for "Uniform Resource _____."
a. Language b. Locator c. Link d. List

Vocabulary Comprehension

7. Facebook and Twitter are called "_____ networks."

8. Twitter users send more than 250 million "_____" per day.

Math Comprehension (subtraction, division, addition, fractions)

9. If 10 of the 30 emails you received were spam, what percentage would that be?

10. If 20% of the 60 emails you received were spam, how many would that be?