

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: A COLORFUL LOOK AT STAINED GLASS

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

Subject Areas: The following information about stained glass will be discussed:

- Making stained glass
- Famous stained glass
- Stained glass in your city

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. Where is the biggest stained glass window?
2. Where is the oldest stained glass window?

Activity Ideas

- Making stained glass is not an easy process. Artists in this field have a lot of skill and learned technique. However, there are many ways for beginners to enjoy a simulation of real stained glass. Here is just one way to create a “faux” stained glass window. This lesson uses special paints that can be purchased at arts and crafts supply stores.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWRRRJfqLSE&feature=related>

This next video shows a simpler method using construction paper and colored tissue paper (cellophane gives a more realistic look):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5gc2qt6vOo>

Here's a final video showing how a real stained glass window is made:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JCK308xW14>

- Stained glass, both ancient and modern, is a beautiful art. Make a visual presentation about stained glass to experience what this art form has created. Students could make posters, videos, PowerPoint presentations, etc to present some images of stained glass.

Use the News

- Is there any stained glass in your city? Search your area – churches, city buildings, antique stores, etc. and ask about any information there may be about the stained glass you find. Next, write a brief description of the stained glass and where it is, as if you were a newspaper reporter.

Answers to the Quiz

1.) a, 2.) c, 3.) a, 4.) a, 5.) a, 6.) d , 7.) cartoon, 8.) comes 9.) 264 , 10.) 124

Quick Quiz — Stained Glass

1. Most ancient stained glass windows were very small.
a. True b. False
2. Stained glass gets its color from _____ that are added to the glass.
a. inks b. bubbles c. metals d. threads
3. Early large stained glass windows were too heavy to support their own weight.
a. True b. False
4. Louis Tiffany, of _____, became famous for creating beautiful stained glass objects such as lamp shades.
a. America b. France c. Belgium d. England
5. The art of creating stained glass windows was first developed in Europe.
a. True b. False
6. The type of metal used to hold the glass pieces together was _____.
a. iron b. silver c. gold d. lead

Vocabulary Comprehension

7. To create a stained glass window, an artist first creates a full-sized drawing called a “_____.”
8. The pieces of glass are held together by strips of metal called _____.

Math Comprehension (subtraction, division, addition, fractions)

9. If a perfectly square stained glass window was 66 centimeters on one side, what would be the perimeter (distance around all sides)?
10. How many total pieces of glass are in a window that has 23 red, 49 yellow, 17 green, and 35 blue pieces?