

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: THE PITCH ON WOODWINDS

For release the week of: February 4, 2013

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

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

- Characteristics of sound
- Identifying woodwinds
- Listening to woodwinds

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 is sound?
2. Why does a piccolo sound higher in pitch than a regular flute?

Activity Ideas

- What are the usual woodwind instruments in an orchestra? Can you identify the sounds of each type of instrument? Here are some videos of woodwinds to help you learn to identify them and their sounds: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKysJgnleB0>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grAXrq-mzuk> Next, try to identify them while listening to a famous musical piece such as "Peter and the Wolf":
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpoizq-jjxs> (this is part 1 of several)
- Does anyone in your class play a woodwind instrument? Or in your school? Maybe they would be willing to bring their instrument to class to show to everyone. They could explain how to play it and possibly give a demonstration. A local music teacher may be willing to do the same for your class.

Use the News

- Are there any concerts in your area that would include woodwind instruments? Check the entertainment section of your newspaper for articles or concert schedules concerning orchestras, bands, or other musical groups of this nature. Information to look for could be: who is playing, what selections are they playing, where are they playing, are they professional or amateur, etc.

Answers to the Quiz

1.) b, 2.) d, 3.) b, 4.) b, 5.) a, 6.) a, 7.) vibrating, 8.) Keys, 9.) \$75, 10.) buying it

Quick Quiz — Woodwinds

- All woodwind instruments were originally made of wood.
a. True b. False
- The curved metal tube on a bassoon is called a _____.
a. hook b. neck c. reed d. crook
- The oboe was developed in the 1800s.
a. True b. False
- Most _____ are made out of metal.
a. oboes b. flutes c. bassoons d. clarinets
- The saxophone was created more recently than the other woodwinds.
a. True b. False
- The player adjusts the _____ of the sound by covering or uncovering holes in the instrument.
a. pitch b. loudness c. tone d. volume

Vocabulary Comprehension

- Woodwinds produce sound by creating a column of _____ air inside a long tube.
- _____ on a woodwind use a series of small levers connected to pads that cover or uncover holes in the instrument.

Math Comprehension (subtraction, division, addition, fractions)

- If a ticket to a concert costs \$15, and there are 5 people in a group buying them, how much in total will they need?
- If a flute costs \$300 to buy, or \$30 per month to rent, which decision will cost less money after one year?