

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: SCORING WITH SOCCER

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

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

- Freestyle soccer
- Fun ways to practice soccer
- Famous soccer players

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 are yellow and red cards in soccer?
2. What are some fun soccer practice drills or ways to practice the game?

Activity Ideas

- How do soccer players pass the time when they are not in a game? Freestyling! Check out these amazing moves from some of the best in the world.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cp6ylH80wOQ>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMSqAiH3ZpE>
- Who are currently the most famous soccer players in the world? What teams do they play for? Research famous players, current and past, and write a summary of their biography.

Use the News

- What sporting events are currently occurring in your area? What is being reported in the sports section of your newspaper? Read about sports and write a brief description of something you find interesting.

Answers to the Quiz

1.) b, 2.) c, 3.) b, 4.) a, 5.) a, 6.) d , 7.) volley, 8.) football, 9.) \$90,000, 10.) 3

Quick Quiz — Soccer

1. Coaches often call a time-out in soccer.
a. True b. False

2. _____ is the only country to have won the FIFA World Cup five times.
a. Italy b. England c. Brazil d. America
3. The first World Cup game was won by Uruguay in 1930.
a. True b. False
4. A game similar to soccer was played in _____ about 2,000 years ago.
a. China b. Italy c. England d. Iceland
5. Soccer is the most popular team sport in the world.
a. True b. False
6. The governing body of world soccer is _____.
a. SOCA b. SIFA c. FOTA d. FIFA

Vocabulary Comprehension

7. A kick made while the ball is in the air is called a “_____.”
8. In countries other than the United States, soccer is called _____.

Math Comprehension (subtraction, division, addition, fractions)

9. If one soccer player earns \$120,000 while another only earns 75% of that, how much does the other player make?
10. If a coach divides 27 players into 9 groups, how many would be in each group?