

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 EARLY DAYS OF ROCK & ROLL

For release the week of: January 13, 2014

Objective: After completing the exercises, students should have a better understanding of rock 'n' roll.

Subject Areas: The following information about rock & roll will be discussed:

- Early rock stars
- Identifying rock songs
- Your local rock bands

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 were the names of the four Beatles?
2. What movies did Elvis Presley star in? Have you seen any of them?

Activity Ideas

- Who were the early rock 'n' rollers? How did they get famous? What songs are they famous for? Choose an artist, such as Chuck Berry or Elvis Presley, to research and report on. A computer presentation or webpage would be an effective way to present information in various formats such as text, sound and pictures.
- How many rock bands can you identify by their music? Use computers or other media devices to play short samples of music starting from the early days of rock -- the 1950s -- 'til today. Individuals or groups could collect a few samples to add to a class collection for everyone to listen to and attempt to recognize the artists.

Use the News

- Are any rock bands performing in your area? Does the newspaper give you any information about local performances? Read the newspaper for show times and dates. There may be reviews you could read. Who would you like to see?

Answers to the Quiz

1.) a, 2.) c, 3.) a, 4.) a, 5.) a, 6.) b , 7.) duck, 8.) country, 9.) 131, 10.) 10 min.

Quick Quiz — Rock & Roll

1. The roots of rock music came from two American music styles.
a. True b. False
2. The Beatles were part of the “_____ Invasion.”
a. American b. German c. British d. Australian
3. The 1950s was the decade in which rock music became popular.
a. True b. False
4. “_____ 88” is considered to be the first rock 'n' roll song.
a. Rocket b. Rock c. Dancing d. Swinging
5. The Byrds were a folk rock band.
a. True b. False
6. People started using the phrase “rock 'n' roll” in the _____.
a. 1930s b. 1950s c. 1960s d. 1980s

Vocabulary Comprehension

7. Chuck Berry did the “_____ walk” on stage to hide his wrinkled suit.
8. The two styles of music that were the roots of rock music were the blues” and _____ music.”

Math Comprehension (subtraction, division, addition, fractions)

9. If 18 of Elvis Presley's 149 “Top 100” songs became No. 1, how many didn't make it to No. 1?
10. If a musician played 4 songs that each lasted about 2 min 30 sec, how much time did all four take to perform?