

CURIOUS GEORGE

Selections from H. A. REY
Teacher Guidelines Presented by
Fantasy Theatre Factory

This is a first rate adventure story about Curious George, a little monkey who is a bit too curious for his own good. Young children love following the escapades of George as he travels from his African Jungle home to the big city zoo in the United States. Everything George sees is new and exciting. In his adventures, George finds himself running from monkey eating alligators, getting an operation in the hospital, and rocketing into outer space. George's curiosity often gets him into trouble, yet somehow with the help of the man in the Yellow Hat, everything turns out fine.



WHY CURIOUS GEORGE?

Curiosity about the world is innate to small children. They can relate to Curious George, and his eagerness to learn about the world. In Science, inquisitiveness is a quality that educators encourage. Manipulative, and "hands on" activities are also part of the mathematics curriculum and national standards. Curious George is a role model of "wonder" as he takes children on an adventure via literature. The literature safari can be the ultimate adventure since the children bring their imaginations and their experiences. The children especially enjoy the occasions when Curious George finds himself in mischief! By reading Curious George and other stories to children, educators can introduce children to a wider variety of literature. By reading to children teachers convey the fact that reading and literature experiences are fun!



INTEGRATED CURRICULUM IDEAS

After enjoying a performance of CURIOUS GEORGE at your school, primary educators can integrate some or all of the following teaching suggestions into their curriculum. The teaching suggestions will be organized according to subject areas. Other selections by H.A. Rey, and by Margaret Rey are included in the bibliography. These books can be used as an introduction to the performance or for follow-up experiences. There is also a non-fiction component to the bibliography.



Enjoy The Show!



LANGUAGE ARTS



I'm Curious About - Children "brainstorm" ideas of what they are curious about, what they want to learn about. After "brainstorming", children vote on what they'd like to learn about. This information can be incorporated into this unit or saved for another learning adventure.

LA.B.2.1.1 - (PreK - 2) The student writes questions and observations about familiar topics, stories, or new experiences.

Puppets - Children can make Curious George and Man with the Yellow Hat puppets and create their own adventures. Puppets can be as simple as paper bag puppets or stick puppets.

VA.B.1.1.1 - (PreK - 2) The student understands and applies media, techniques, and processes.

Cartoons and Speech Balloons - Children can make their own cartoons and use speech balloons to create language. The children can share their speech balloons with their classmates.

LA.B.1.1.1 - (PreK - 2) The student makes a plan for writing that includes a central idea and related ideas.

TV Interviews - Children work in groups of three to create an interview. The three characters would be Curious George, the Man with the Yellow Hat, and the reporter. Simple props such as an empty towel holder could be used as a microphone. Name tags, or monkey mask and yellow hat could be used for other characters. The interview could be spontaneous, or children could be encouraged to develop their own script. Video taping either style of interview would be an ideal way to conclude this activity.

LA.B.2.1.1- (PreK-2) The student writes questions and observations about familiar topics, stories, or new experiences.

Sequencing Activity - Children can produce their own CURIOUS GEORGE retelling for TV. Children work together in small groups. Each child chooses a different part of the story to illustrate. Children arrange illustrations in story order. Then glue their illustrations to roll paper. Make sure to leave unused paper at the beginning and end of their work. When the children's' work is presented on the TV, each child can tell about their illustration. Teacher can make the TV from a cardboard box and two dowels. See Bibliography illustration for further detail.

LA.C.1.1.4 - (PreK - 2) The student retells specific details of information heard, including sequence of events.

Character Description - Children can write about Curious George and the Man with the Yellow Hat on a monkey shape or a yellow hat.

LA.E.1.1.2 - (PreK-2) The student identifies the story elements of setting, plot character, problem, and solution / resolutions.

Class Book - "Brainstorm" with class about different escapades for Curious George. Curious George and Teacher chart ideas. Choose one idea. Write a class book.

Monkey Bars - "Brainstorm" ideas why children think they are called monkey bars. Can be extended to research project in school library. Children discover how monkey bars got their name. To culminate the activity, children play on the monkey bars on the playground.

SOCIAL STUDIES



African Animals - Pretend that the class is in Africa with Curious George. Teacher can demonstrate the location of Africa on the globe. Children will "brainstorm" animals that live in Africa. Teacher charts children's' responses. Children listen for sounds in words, just like Curious George. Each child will choose one animal from the chart to illustrate. Teacher can use children's' illustrations to create a bulletin board - Curious George and His Friends in Africa.

SS.B.1.1.1 - (PreK - 2) The student determines the absolute and relative location of people, places, and things.

Map Skills - On a map which includes both the USA and Africa have children locate both countries. Then note bodies of water. Direct the children to color bodies of water blue and land formations green. Then have children locate Africa. Have children determine route for Curious George as he leaves Africa and goes to the USA Children can determine their route by drawing a line to connect the two continents. Discuss what type of transportation Curious George would need to make this journey.

SS.B.1.1.2 - (PreK - 2) The student uses simple maps, globes, and other three dimensional models to identify and locate places.

SOCIAL STUDIES AND SCIENCE



Habitats and Map Skills - Read about monkeys and gorillas from the non-fiction resource list. Determine where monkeys and gorillas live. Decide on a feature for the map key to depict each animal. For example, green circle could denote the chimpanzee habitat etc.. Then on a world map, mark the countries in which each animal lives.

SS.B.1.1.2 - (PreK - 2) The student uses simple maps, globes and other three dimensional models to identify and locate places.

SCIENCE

Habitats - Use none-fiction resources. Note the kind of places that and/or gorillas live. Do these places have anything in common? What types of foods are available? Make a class mural of monkey's habitat (plants, trees, other animals).

SC.G.1.1.1- 4 (PreK - 2) The student understands the competitive, interdependent, cyclic nature of living things in the environment.



Weather - Use non-fiction materials to determine the weather in monkey's and/or gorilla's habitat. Children can figure out how much, and how frequent precipitation occurs, and any seasonal differences.

Fact Chart - Compile a list of facts learned about monkeys and gorillas. Compare monkey facts and gorillas facts.

SC.F.2.1.2 (PreK - 2) The student knows that there are many different kinds of living things that live in a variety of environments.

Balance Experiments - Monkeys have a very good sense of balance. A simple way to demonstrate balance is to ask each child to balance on one foot. What body parts help us balance? Children can try some other balancing activities such as balancing a book on one's head, or balancing a pencil on one's nose. Making a fingertip balance is another fun activity. Be sure to use an index card or light weight cardboard for the fingertip balance. Also, fingertip balance will need paper clips to facilitate balancing.

MATHEMATICS



Graphing - After reading three or four Curious George books, ask the children to choose their favorite title and write the title on a pre-cut piece of paper. On a large sheet of paper, teacher makes three - four columns, and writes the title of each Curious George book at the bottom. Each child tells the class the title of their favorite story. Then the child puts their paper in the graph column of their favorite book.

MA.E.3.1.2 - (PreK - 2) The student decides what information is appropriate and how data can be collected, displayed, and interpreted to answer relevant questions.

Graphing - Since bananas are one of the monkey's favorite foods, have a class taste test. Use bananas, dried bananas, and banana bread, or other banana product. Have children taste each item, then write down their favorite way to eat bananas. Use a circle graph and have children group favorites together. Then ask children to make statements about graph. For example, most children liked the bananas.

MA.E.3.1.2 - (PreK - 2) The student designs a simple experiment to answer a class question, collects appropriate information, and interprets the results using graphical displays of information, such as line graphs, pictographs and charts.



Measurement - Compare monkey to self. How much does average young monkey weigh? How much does average child weigh (or weigh each individual child)? Compare height. Compare length of monkey arms, and legs to own. This information would be available in an encyclopedia.

MA.B.1.1.1 - (PreK - 2) The student uses and describes basic measurement concepts including length, weight, digital and analog time, temperature, and capacity.

Bibliography

Non-Fiction Resources

Burgel, Paul Hermann and Manfred Hartwig. GORILLAS 1992
A Carrollrhoda Nature Watch Book Set in Africa Authors share observations of gorillas in Virunga Mountains.

Goodall, Jane. THE CHIMPANZEE FAMILY BOOK 1989
Set in Gombe National Park, Africa - Jane Goodall shares observations of chimpanzees in natural habitat. Photographs by Michael Neugebauer.

Overbeck, Cynthia. MONKEYS THE JAPANESE MACAQUES 1981
Detailed information regarding macaques from Japan. Photographs by Osamu Nishikawa.

Patterson, Francine Dr.. KOKO'S STORY 1987
A unique story about a gorilla (in captivity) who learns to communicate with sign language. Photographs by Dr. Ronald H. Cohn.

Fiction Resources: -- All books by H.A. REY

*Curious George

*Curious George gets a Medal

*Curious George rides a bike

Anybody At Home?

Curious George takes a Job

Cecily G and the Nine Monkeys

The Stars- A new Way to See Them

Find the Constellations

See the Circus

Feed the Animals

Where's My Baby?

...and by Margaret Rey

*Curious George Goes to the Hospital

Curious George Flies a Kite

* Books selections were incorporated into FTF's Curious George Show.

Sequencing Activity TV: