

Lesson Plans for A Unicorn, a Dinosaur, and a Shark Walk into a Book Written and Illustrated by Jonathan Fenske

In this funny picture book, the narrator tries to tell the tale of a unicorn, a dinosaur, and a shark in the “best book ever” but the characters are less than impressed, and don’t cooperate with the storyteller’s cues. Combining three characters universally loved by children grabs the attention of the entire class and opens up the opportunity for lots of learning experiences and FUN!

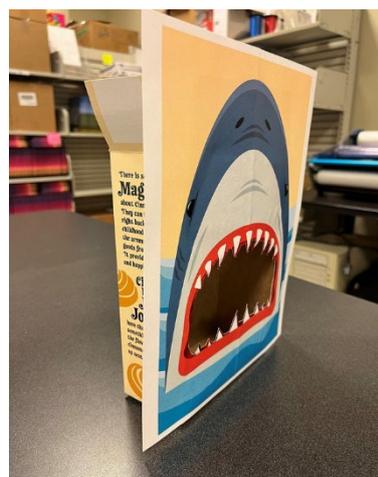
Literacy

Feed the Shark

To prepare the game, print the shark page provided below and cut out the mouth. Cut an opening in a cracker or cereal box and attach the shark to the box as pictured. Laminate and cut out the letter and picture cards.

Level 1: Use 2 sets of the letter cards. Pass one set out to the children playing and keep the other set together for the teacher. The teacher shows the kids the first card in their deck and whoever has the match feeds it to the shark. The first one to feed all their cards wins.

Level 2: Pass the letter cards out to the players and teacher keeps the picture cards. Teacher holds up a picture card and the student with the beginning sound card feeds it to the shark. Children can also hold the picture cards and teacher flashes the letters. The youngest learners can just feed the picture cards to the shark as the teacher names the items identifying the letter and beginning sound.



Art

Clay Creations

Playdough is always a crowd favorite. Along with being a creative outlet, it's a great fine motor activity. Get Model Magic out and let your students mold their favorite character from the story or anything their imagination can think up. White Model Magic is my favorite so the kids can paint their creations once they're dry. Since the finished product can be fragile, I love the idea of displaying their art in a clear clamshell food container like this:



Below is a recipe for homemade air-dry clay:

1 cup baking soda (baking powder will NOT work)

½ cup cornstarch

¾ cup water

Instructions: Place all ingredients into a pot over medium heat. Stir the mixture almost constantly, until it thickens and becomes the consistency of whipped mashed potatoes. Do not overcook! Let cool and then knead until smooth and no longer sticky. Store the clay in a Ziploc or an airtight container and it will last for a couple of days. This recipe will make enough clay for 3 to four children. <https://onelittleproject.com/how-to-make-clay/>

Science

Erupting Rainbow Experiment

This experiment brings together the beauty of rainbows, the power of volcanos and the science of chemistry that will entertain all.

Supplies: 6 small cups and 6 small water bottles (8oz size), baking soda, vinegar, dish soap, food coloring, spoon, and a funnel (optional)

Instructions: Pour vinegar into the small cups. Using red, yellow, and blue food coloring, mix the colors to create the colors of the rainbow, one color in each cup. Spoon baking soda into the water bottles using the funnel if available. Add a few drops of dish soap on top of the baking soda. Slowly pour the colored vinegar into the bottles of baking soda and observe the reaction. When the acid (vinegar) and the base (baking soda) mix together, they form a gas called carbon dioxide. This gas is all the fizzing, bubbling action you can see, hear, and even feel if you put your hand close enough! All three states of matter are present: liquid (vinegar), solid (baking soda), and gas (carbon dioxide). When the liquid and solid combine, they form a gas. For more rainbow STEM activities click here:

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/rainbow-science-experiments-stem-kids/>



Drama

Act It Out

Our favorite books are those we can bring to life. This simple story is easy to act out, with teacher as the narrator and children playing the animals. Like any good production, costumes are necessary so provide your students with the supplies to make the character mask of their choosing similar to those pictured below. Prep the paper plates and let the children decorate them accordingly.

Shark - Cut eye holes

Dinosaur - Cut off the bottom quarter and cut eye holes. Scallop the edges of the top of the plate.

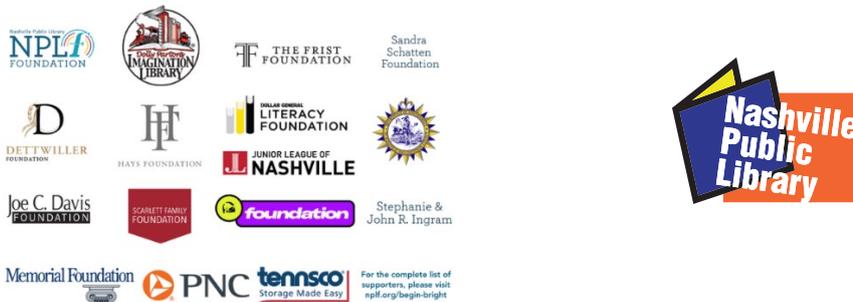
Unicorn - Cut out the inside circle of the plate.

Provide paint for the plates and construction paper for fins, horns and ears. Attach a craft stick to each mask so the kids can hold them into place.

This book doesn't have a traditional storyline. Talk about that with your students. The main characters seem disappointed with the action in the book. Ask the children if they could make up a new story for the characters with a beginning, middle, and end with conflict and resolution. Then take a turn at acting out the new story.



Comments or questions? Contact BBTL bringingbookstolife@nashville.gov
 NPL's Early Literacy Initiatives are brought to you by



For the complete list of supporters, please visit npl.org/bring-bright

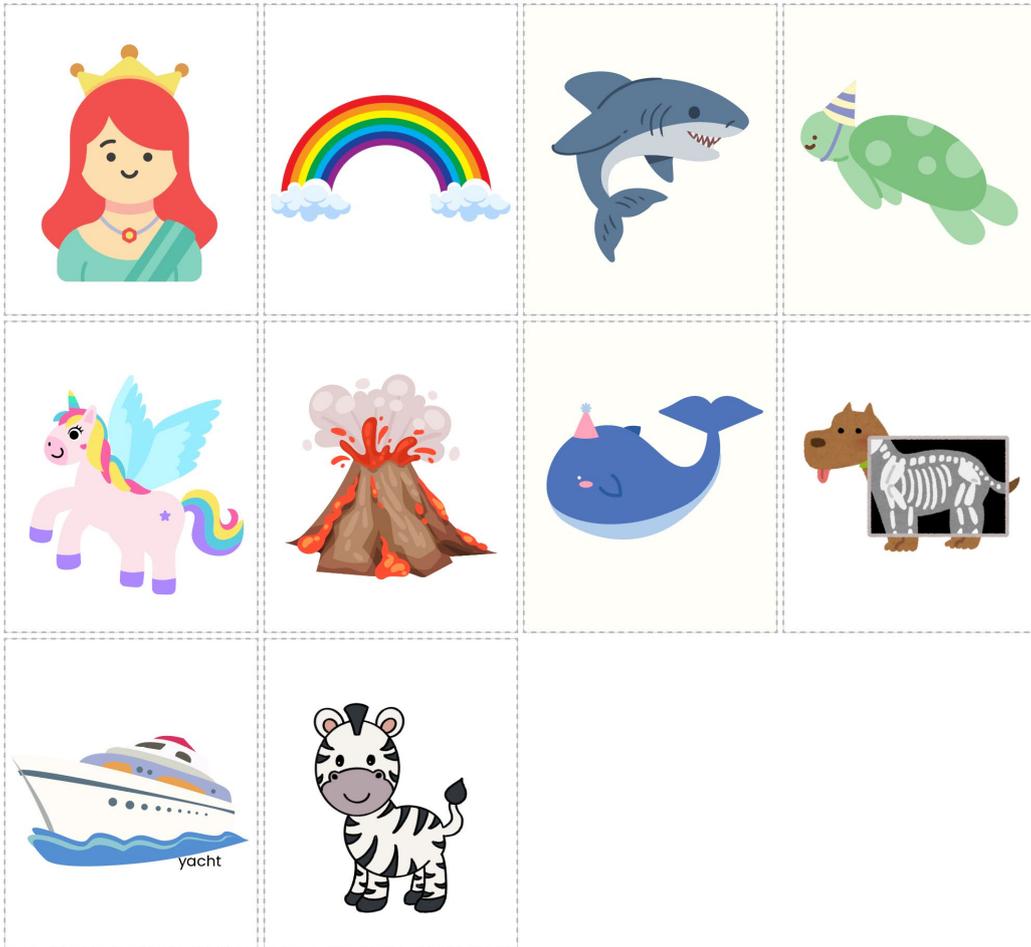
FEED THE ANIMALS GAME CARDS

Cut the cards and play the game.



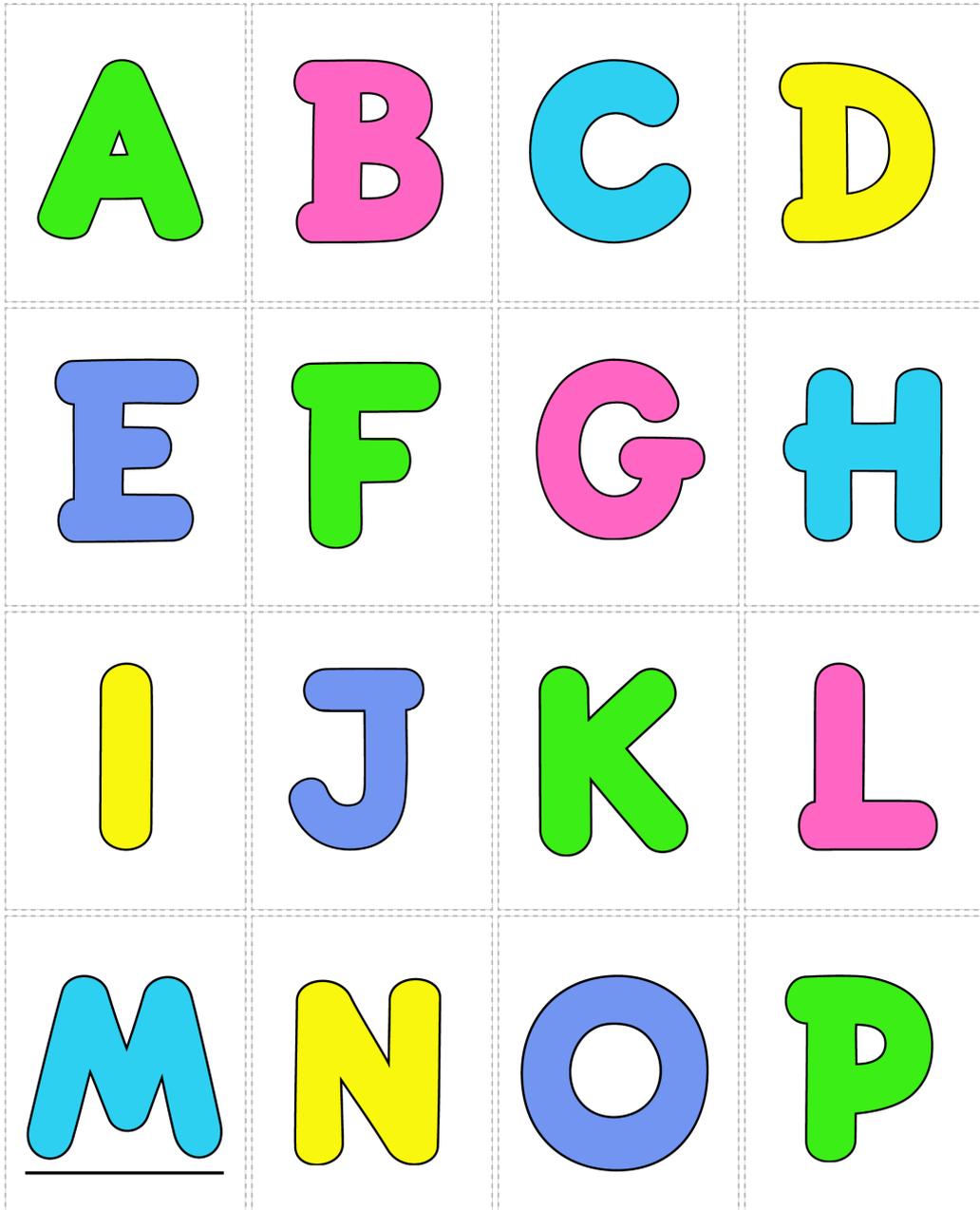
FEED THE ANIMALS GAME CARDS

Cut the cards and play the game.



FEED THE ANIMALS GAME CARDS

Cut the cards and play the game.



FEED THE ANIMALS GAME CARDS

Cut the cards and play the game.

