



A Teacher's Guide
 created by Marcie Colleen
 based upon the picture book
 by Viviane Elbee,
 illustrated by Danni Gowdy

This classroom guide is designed for students in kindergarten through second grade. It is assumed that teachers will adapt each activity to fit the needs and abilities of their own students.

It offers activities to help teachers integrate *Teach Your Giraffe to Ski* across the curricula.

All activities were created in conjunction with the Common Core and other relevant content standards.

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Before You Read...

Before reading *Teach Your Giraffe to Ski*, show the entire book. Help students identify the basic parts of a picture book: front cover, back cover, title page, dedication page, spine, jacket, and jacket flap.

- Describe what you see.
- Can you predict what the story might be about based on the title and the cover illustration?

English Language Arts

Mountains of Vocabulary

Teach Your Giraffe to Ski contains many "skiing-related" words which may be new for students. Encourage them to use context clues from both the text and illustrations to infer meanings.

galloping	swerving	skis
slopes	ski lift	freestyle

Additional Exploration:

- While they read, ask students to look carefully for words they do not know. As soon as they come across a new vocabulary word, they should jot it down.
- Look up the unknown word in the dictionary. (Depending on the level of your students, a student volunteer can do this or the teacher can.) Read the definition.
- Come up with a way to remember what the word means. Using Total Physical Response, students can create an action that symbolizes the word and helps them remember it.

It's Ski Time!

This game is a fun way to learn new ski vocabulary and phrases. It is based on commands that the Teacher or Leader calls out while the kids move about the room.

Each command requires the kids to strike a certain pose or do a certain action.

It is best to introduce only a few of the commands at a time so kids do not get overwhelmed. After playing the game, kids can make up their own commands and actions based on the many action words in *Teach Your Giraffe to Ski*.

<u>Command</u>	<u>Action</u>
Hot chocolate	sit on the floor and pretend to drink hot chocolate
Hit the slopes	move around the space
Bunny Hill	two people link arms and skip slowly
Pizza!	Walk pigeon-toed
French Fries	Pretend you have skis on and slide gracefully around the space
Draw S's	zig zag through the space
Freestyle	move in any way. Try to be unique
Ski Lift	sit down in groups of three and say "whoa!"
Make a snow angel	lay on the floor with arms and legs spread wide
Lodge time	freeze until the command "Hit the slopes" is given.

How To: Writing Technical Instructions

Teaching someone to do something new can be challenging, particularly in writing.

As a class, create a list of instructions on how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

- 1) Gather the ingredients: a jar of peanut butter, a jar of jelly, and two slices of bread.
- 2) Get your tools: spoon, knife, plate, etc.
- 3) Lay the pieces of bread side by side on the table.
- 4) Open the jar of peanut butter.
- 5) Place the knife in the jar and scoop out some peanut butter.
- 6) Spread the peanut butter on one of the slices of bread.
- 7) Open the jar of jelly.
- 8) Using the spoon, scoop out some jelly and spread the jelly on the other piece of bread.
- 9) Place the pieces of bread together, joining the jelly and the peanut butter sides.
- 10) Using the knife, cut the bread in half.
- 11) Place on plate.
- 12) Eat.
- 13) Clean up and put the jars of peanut butter and jelly away.

Students can create their own recipe cards for their favorite treats, complete with illustrations.

Examples:

- Hot fudge sundae
- Grilled cheese sandwich
- Veggies and hummus
- Ham and cheese sandwich
- Fruit salad
- Scrambled eggs and toast

Create a class cookbook to include all the recipes.

For some extra fun, bring in all the tools necessary to complete a recipe and have the students walk you through step by step. If they miss a step, hilarity might ensue!

Teach Your _____ to _____

Now it's your turn! What will you teach? Who will you teach?

Choose an outdoor winter activity, such as sledding, snowball fighting, or snow fort building, and choose a silly animal to teach how to do it.

Use *How to Teach Your Giraffe to Ski* as a mentor text, moving through the story page by page as a template to write your own story.

BONUS: Illustrate your story, as well, and share it in class as part of a special Story Time.

Math

Ski Patrol Rescue Hopscotch

This hopscotch activity will help students improve motor skills, balance, and self-regulation behaviors. Additionally, this game will encourage them to learn about math concepts such as number recognition and counting, as well as elements of art including shape and line.

This game can be created for indoor spaces through simply taping out the boxes on the floor and/or traditionally by drawing them on the pavement outdoors.

Materials:

- Masking tape (for indoor version)
- Sidewalk chalk, markers, or dark crayons
- Beanbag (or small item representing someone that must be rescued on the ski slope)
- One die

Set Up:

Create the hopscotch boxes.

Students can help draw numbers in the squares. If they are not ready to write numbers alone, try lightly drawing the numbers first and then encourage them to trace over them.

How to Play:

1. Place the beanbag in one of the squares.
2. The first student rolls the dice twice and adds the two numbers together to know how many boxes they must hop to. (i.e. $2 + 4 = 6$, hop six spaces)
3. The students hop their way through, counting as they go.
4. If they land on the box with the beanbag, they win! If they overshoot or fall short they must start all over again.
5. Play continues until everyone gets the beanbag or everyone has been given a chance.

For an extra challenge, change the location of the beanbag each turn.

Bundle Up Math

It's essential to bundle up if you want to play in the cold weather.

Sorting teaches math skills: color recognition, categorizing and counting skills.

Ask each student to bring in an item of winter clothing from home to place in a large pile. This can also be done with jackets, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. that the students have worn to school.

Instruct students to make a pile separating the clothes into certain categories based on color or type of clothing.

Examples:

- Count the number of jackets in the pile
- Find all the items with red on them
- Separate out the hats and gloves

Under Where? Spatial Sense

Look at the "Shhhhhhhuuuuu...Wheee!" spread in *Teach Your Giraffe How to Ski*.

Describe where the bird is sitting.

[examples: on the tree, next to the kid, in the middle of the ski slope]

Describe where the giraffe is.

[example: on skis, in front of the kid, behind the red flag]

Describe where the snow-capped mountains are.

Describe where the sun is.

Describe where the other person skiing is.

Have students pick another illustration in *Teach Your Giraffe to Ski* and discuss where things are spatially within that illustration.

Now look around your classroom.

- Describe where your desk sits.
- Describe where your teacher is sitting or standing.
- Describe where the chalkboard/whiteboard is.
- Describe where the clock is.
- Describe where the door is.
- Can you describe where anything else is?

Counting and Comparison

Danni Gowdy's illustrations are bold and lend themselves nicely to practicing counting and comparison throughout *Teach Your Giraffe to Ski*. Use the following questions to guide students through a mathematical exploration of the book.

"Jumping spotties!" spread:

- How many skiers do you see?
- How many trees do you see?

"RACING UP THE BIG SCARY SLOPE?!?" spread:

- How many skiers do you see on the ski lift?
- How many clouds?
- How many trees?

"Your giraffe laughs" spread:

- How many mountain tops do you see?

- How many flags do you see?
- How many trees do you see?
- How many ski poles do you see?

Additional Challenge: Now compare the numbers of different items on each spread, using these symbols:

> (is greater than)

= (is equal to)

< (is less than)

Science

Giraffe Research Project

How much do you know about giraffes? It's time to research them.

Information to be gathered might include:

- What kind of animals are giraffes?
- Are there different kinds of giraffes?
- Where do giraffes live?
- How do giraffes show how they feel?
- Draw a picture of a giraffe.
- Write 3 words that describe a giraffe.
- Interesting fact #1
- Interesting fact #2
- Interesting fact #3

Students may use the Internet or the library to complete their research. Once their research is done, students can create a poster and present their findings to the class.

Giraffe: Fiction vs. Non-fiction

Compare the facts researched about giraffes above (non-fiction) to Giraffe in *Teach Your Giraffe to Ski* (fiction).

As a class, create a T-chart of comparisons.

Non-fiction	Fiction
Giraffes gallop	Giraffes ski
Giraffes eat leaves	Giraffes drink hot cocoa

Push Off: Overcoming Fears

Sometimes we don't want to try something new because we are scared.

- What do you think it means to be brave?

Being brave means a lot of different things, such as:

- Doing something that is hard to do like trying to learn to ride a bike
- Getting a shot at the doctor's office even though it might hurt
- Saying "No" to someone who is trying to get you to do something that you know is wrong
- Trying to help yourself and others be happy even though you feel sad

- Is it possible to be scared and brave at the same time?

It is okay to be scared sometimes, and brave people get scared too. Sometimes the bravest people are the ones who do what they are supposed to do even though they are scared. It's okay to be scared or have fears; being brave means that you try not to let those fears control how you live or act.

- What do you think the kid in the story is afraid of?
- Even though the kid is afraid, does he act brave?
- How can you act brave like the kid when you are afraid of something?

Explain that sometimes, like the kid in *Teach Your Giraffe to Ski*, our imaginations play tricks on us, making us scared of things that might not really happen.

Have the students use lunch bags, crayons, yarn, and glue to make puppets of themselves being brave - these will be their brave puppets to help them be brave or act out being brave when they feel scared.





