



Jack and the Beanstalk

The classic fairy tale, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, provides many opportunities for fun learning activities across the curriculum.

Science

Growing Miniature Beanstalks

Lima beans are easy and fun to observe growing. Give each student a cup with some soil in it. Have them poke holes in the soil and plant several (2-3) lima beans. Have students water the beans and keep the soil moist, but not too wet. Once the beans have sprouted, children can keep a daily journal with illustrations of the progress of their "beanstalks."

Beans, Beans, Beans

Children can examine a variety of fresh, dried, or canned beans, such as lima beans, kidney beans, garbanzo beans, pinto beans, etc. If you use canned beans, you can also have children taste the different kinds of beans and then work with them to graph the results of the taste test.

Math

Castle Constructions

Provide children with tape and a variety of different sizes and shapes of cardboard boxes: cereal boxes, cracker boxes, oatmeal boxes, juice cans, toilet paper and paper towel roll tubes, and so on. Encourage small groups of children to tape the boxes together to construct castles.

More Castle Constructions

Create sandcastles in the sandbox using different-sized pails, paper cups, aluminum cans of various sizes (be sure there are no sharp edges), and commercial castle molds, if available. Use craft sticks, drinking straws, empty spools, etc. to add details.

Art

Bean Mosaics

Provide heavy duty paper plates, glue, markers, and a variety of dried beans, such as lima beans, kidney beans, pinto beans, and so on. Encourage children to draw a simple shape and then fill it in with different kinds of beans to create a mosaic.

Language Arts

Illustrated Beanstalk

Work with children to retell the story, sentence by sentence. Record their summary on chart paper or sentence strips. Provide large oval construction paper leaves, or have children cut out their own. Assign each child a sentence to illustrate. Arrange the sentences and illustrations in sequential order on a beanstalk that climbs up your wall.

Hungry as a Giant

The giant in the story gobbled up animals and people. Have each child plan a different, less gruesome, menu for the giant. Assign children a breakfast, lunch, or dinner meal to plan and illustrate. For example, for breakfast the giant might eat 1000 pancakes, 300 sausages, a bathtub full of orange juice, and so on. When children are done, gather their menus in a cookbook entitled, "Food Fit for a Giant."

Using the Make-Your-Own Puppets Reproducible

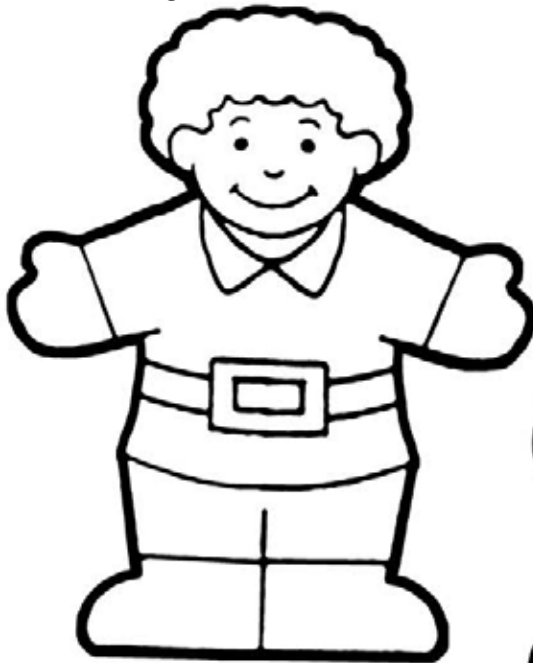
Send the FingerTale puppet fun home with your students! Just reproduce the included story and puppets for each child. It's a great way for children to continue building language arts skills, from vocabulary development to listening

MAKE-YOUR-OWN FINGERTALE PUPPETS

Jack and the Beanstalk

You and your child can make your own puppets and then use them to retell the familiar story your child enjoyed at school. Here's how:

1. Provide crayons or markers for your child to color the puppets.
2. Help your child cut the puppets out along the outside edge, or cut them out yourself.
3. **To make "stick puppets":**
Glue or tape the puppets to craft sticks or drinking straws.
4. **To make "finger puppets":**
Trace the outline of each of the puppets onto a second piece of paper. Cut the outline out and staple it to the back of the puppet along the edges, leaving the bottom open to allow room for your finger.





Jack and the Beanstalk

Many years ago, in an old cottage in the country, there lived a woman and her son, Jack. They were very poor and had no food to eat. One day Jack's mother said to him sadly, "Take our cow, our dear cow, to the market and sell her."

On his way to the market, Jack met a man who offered to buy the cow for a bag of beans. Jack laughed. "A cow for a bag of beans? That's not a bargain I'll make," he said. But when the man told him they were magic beans, Jack quickly made the trade.

When he returned home with the beans, his mother was very angry. "How could you do such a foolish thing? There are no such things as magic beans," she shouted. She took the beans and threw them out the window into the garden below. Then they both went to bed with empty stomachs.

But when Jack woke the next morning, he saw that a huge beanstalk had grown from the beans. "I will climb this beanstalk and see where it leads!" he said.

After many hours of hard climbing, Jack reached the top of the beanstalk. Ahead he saw a huge castle. "I wonder who lives there," he said. While he was wondering what to do next, a tiny fairy appeared. She told Jack that the evil giant who lived in the castle was the very same giant who had stolen his father's money, leaving their family so very poor. She warned Jack that the giant gobbled up anyone who entered the castle.

"I'm going to get my father's belongings back for my mother," he vowed. So Jack snuck into the castle, crept up the stairs, and hid in a cupboard. Soon the giant awoke from his rest. Rubbing his eyes, he sniffed the air. "Fe, fi, fo, fum. I smell the blood of an Englishman," he roared.

But try as he might, the giant couldn't find the hidden Jack.

And, when the giant lumbered away to find his breakfast, Jack plucked the giant's hen that laid golden eggs from its nest. Then he scurried down the beanstalk and gave the hen to his mother. "You can't eat these eggs, Mother, but you can sell some for food," he said.

On his next trip to the giant's castle, Jack took two bags of gold from the giant's treasury and gave them to his mother. On his third trip, he took the giant's magic singing harp. As Jack was running away with the harp, it called out, "Master, Master, someone is stealing me!"

The giant woke from his sleep and chased Jack down the beanstalk. When Jack reached the bottom, he yelled, "Mother, bring me my axe." As the giant's legs emerged from the clouds, Jack struck the beanstalk with his axe. The beanstalk shook. Jack struck it again, and the beanstalk toppled over, cut in two. The giant crashed to the ground and lay still.

The gold, the magic hen, and the singing harp, possessions that had once belonged to his family, now belonged to it once again. Jack and his mother grew rich, and they lived happily ever after.

