

Chicken Man

Book by Michelle Edwards

Literature based unit study by Jeana

SOCIAL STUDIES: MAP SKILLS

Take a closer look at the map in front of the book. Find the Chicken Man's house in relation to the other buildings. Trace with your finger the route he would take to get to his first job (the chicken coop), his second job (laundry), etc.

Using Monopoly™ houses and hotels or Lego™ blocks, make a model of the kibbutz. Let your child give and follow directions by looking at the map. E.g. The house goes to the right; the dairy is to the north, etc. Label each building.

Make a map and/or model of your own neighborhood.

SOCIAL STUDIES: CULTURE

Explain how a kibbutz works and wonder about what it would be like to live on a kibbutz.

Pretend your house is a kibbutz and set up and assign jobs and areas to child(ren). Ring a bell or some other signal when it's time to change jobs. Everyone rotates. Some jobs could be real; some could be silly – like scrub floor with toothbrush or build a house with toothpicks. Encourage good attitudes and “whistling or singing while you work” At the end ask which jobs were most enjoyable.

SOCIAL STUDIES: RELATIONSHIPS

Discuss working together without being jealous and without fighting; discuss the process of making an appeal to leadership – when Chicken Man went to Simon and said, “We need to have a meeting.” He didn't begin complaining to others, but he went to the proper authorities to discuss the problem. Give child a problem – e.g. she is given a book to read at a friend's house that she would not be allowed to read at home. Have her act out the proper appeal process.

SOCIAL STUDIES: GEOGRAPHY

This story takes place in Israel. Find Israel on the map. What other countries border Israel to the North, South, East and West? Find the Jezreel valley. Compare ancient Israel with modern Israel (most Bibles have maps of ancient Israel). Jezreel is

mentioned in the Bible in Joshua 17:16. Make your own story disk to place on Israel.

BIBLE

This reminds me of the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-47. Everywhere Joseph went, he did well – even when he was in slavery he was promoted to the highest position. His brothers were jealous of him. Talk about correct responses when others are promoted. The Bible says to “Rejoice with those who do rejoice.” (1 Corinthians 12:26) How can we share in others’ success; e.g. when your brother or sister gets something special?

Discuss: Why were the children so misbehaved? “A child left to himself brings shame to his mother.” (Proverbs 29:15)

Character: Chicken Man was diligent – he worked hard and even did extra things that weren’t required; i.e. fixing the sprinkler system, bringing Clara roses. His willingness to work hard paid off; he eventually got the job he wanted permanently. Diligence: 2 Peter 1:5-7; Proverbs 27:23-27; Proverbs 28: 20; Proverbs 10:4; Proverbs 21:5; Proverbs 4:23; Luke 15:8; Romans 12:8

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Have fun learning some Hebrew words:

Shalom = peace, also hello and good bye

of = chicken

beytzim = egg

charutz (pronounced a guttural h sound, not ch) = diligence

LANGUAGE ARTS: VOCABULARY/SPELLING

Draw pictures of the nouns (things). Act out the verbs (action words). Review words frequently. Use at the end of unit for spelling test.

Brood – a group, usually a family of offspring hatched at one time

Chicken – a domestic fowl

Cluck(ing) – the sound a hen makes

Combs – the fleshy outgrowth on the head of certain roosters

Coop – a cage in which chickens are penned

Committee – a group of people elected to perform some service or function

Crow(ed)– the cry of a rooster

Gardener – a person who takes care of the garden

Kibbutz – a community settlement (Israeli)

Machine – something that is used to do work

Muck(ed) – to remove manure

Mulch(ed) – to cover with straw

Orchard – a group of fruit or nut trees

Strut, strutted – to walk proudly

LANGUAGE ARTS: CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

Why do you suppose the workers were required to change jobs every so often? Do you think they made the right decision at the end to leave Chicken Man in the chicken coop? Do you think the other workers were happy about this? Why or why not? Create a “chores graph” for your household. Assign everyone a task for a certain amount of time and post in a central place.

LANGUAGE ARTS: POETRY

Write a poem from Clara’s perspective begging the Chicken Man to come back to the coop.

OR Write a story about your day visiting a kibbutz.

LANGUAGE ARTS: IDIOMS

This story illustrates these idioms even though they are not spoken in the story itself.

Idioms/sayings to discuss: “The grass is always greener on the other side of the hill” – each person who was not satisfied with his/her job, thought s/he would be happier if s/he had a different job.

“Whistle while you work” – being happy makes the job more enjoyable.

“A little bird told me.” On the page where the work committee is gathered discussing the problem, a bird is sitting in the window “listening.” This comes from the Bible: Ecclesiastes 10:20 “Do not curse the king, even in your thought; Do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom; For a bird of the air may carry your voice, And a bird in flight may tell the matter.” (Could also be used for Bible discussion)

MUSIC: HEBREW, BLUES, AND FOLK SONGS

Chicken Man sings while he works. This is one of the reasons the chickens like him so much. The books list different kinds of songs that he sings. Make a list of the

different kinds of songs we sing: folk songs, nursery rhymes, church songs, etc. Folk songs are ones that have been handed down from one generation to the next. Folk music was not written down, but learned by rote. Most of the songs have unknown authors. They often tell a bit of history or culture.

Sing some American folk songs: “Yankee Doodle,” “Pop Goes the Weasel,” “Blow the Man Down,” and “Old Joe Clark.”

Try learning some Hebrew folk songs: Shalom Chaverim and Hinei Ma Tov speak of unity and peace. (I found them in *The Music Book* series)

Also you could discuss how music has been used throughout history to “soothe” the soul when a situation was undesirable – e.g. slaves worked in rhythm and sang what is now called the blues. Learn some blues tunes or basic blues form: each stanza has three lines; the second is a repetition of the first. Each line of words makes up four measures, for a total of twelve measures. The three primary chords are used (I, IV and V) – four measures of I, two measures of IV, two measures of I, two measures of V, and two measures of I. If you are musically inclined, try making up your own blues tune following these guidelines.

ART: CARTOONING

Consider the cartoon-like illustrations in this book. Try drawing some cartoons of your own. Does chicken man look happy in the drawings? Try drawing happy characters. Look at some of the other characters. Do they look happy? Try expressing particular feelings through cartoon faces; e.g. sad, angry, surprised, afraid.

MATH: COUNTING AND SKIP COUNTING

Count the chicken and/or the eggs. Find out how many eggs there would be if each chicken laid two eggs, three eggs, four eggs, etc. Count by twos, threes, fours, and fives. Make a chart that shows this:

If you had 10 chickens and each one lays

2 eggs 3 eggs 4 eggs 5 eggs

How many would you have?

MATH: ESTIMATING AND MULTIPLYING

The children were unrolling rolls of toilet paper to see if it would really stretch to Tel Aviv. Find out how far it is on the map from the Jezreel Valley to Tel Aviv (approximately 40 miles) Estimate how much toilet paper it would take to stretch all the way there. A mile is equal to 5,280 feet or 1760 yards. Look on a package of toilet paper to figure this out. We had to multiply each square (4.5") by the number of squares in a roll (280); take that number (1260") and divide it into feet (1260" / 12" = 105'); then divide that number into 5,280 (50.3). This should be the number of rolls for one mile. Multiply that number by 40 (2012). This number tells how many rolls it would take to stretch across 40 miles.

SCIENCE: BIOLOGY –CHICKENS

Learn more about chicken and eggs. How long does it take an egg to hatch? How many eggs does a chicken usually lay each day? Are they temperamental? Would they be "sad" if someone like Chicken Man was not there and actually refuse to lay eggs? Contact a farmer in your area and ask some questions. Your local health food store should be able to put you in contact with a local farmer who sells brown eggs; perhaps you can purchase some eggs from him and observe the chickens. Observe pecking order.

[Chicken Lapbook at Homeschool Share](#)

SCIENCE: GARDENING

Talk about the hard work involved in taking care of garden – weeding, mulching, and trimming. Act these things out. Or plant flowers and have a little garden or your own. Go outside and observe the different parts of a flower (stem, petals, leaves, stamen, and sepal).

JUST FOR FUN

P.E./GAMES:

If you have enough people in your family, play volleyball and rotate positions. Perhaps you could play with another family, and make it even more fun. Simple version: two or four square (rotate to different squares)

Try juggling three balls or plastic Easter eggs. A great book is *Juggling for the Complete Klutz* by John Cassidy.

COOKING

Make pancakes and try flipping them in the air. Or experiment with making cookies with and without eggs. First hypothesize about what will happen. Chart the results. What happens to the cookies without the eggs? How do they taste? Do they fall apart? Which are easier to work with?

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