

My Five Senses Gingerbread Unit

By Casey Anderson

Sensory Activities:

- Hearing/Listening-

Gingerbread Listening: Read Gingerbread Boy but don't show pictures. Children have to use their sense of hearing to listen to what is happening in the story. After ask the children questions about the story and ask how they knew the answers since they couldn't even see the pictures.

Yoo-Hoo! Where are you? Game: After reading Gingerbread boy play this game. Using a gingerbread paper puppet on a stick have a child sit in the middle with their eyes closed. Play some music and have the other students pass the puppet around the circle. Stop the music and have the child with the puppet hold it. The child in the middle says "yoo hoo where are you?" Then the child with the puppet says "Here I am!" The middle person has to use their sense of hearing to identify the person. Complete several rounds until all have had a chance to be "it."

- Sight-

Gingerbread Viewers: Kids use their sense of sight to answer questions from the Gingerbread Boy book. For example, "what color were the Gingerbread Boy's shoes?"

- Touch-

gingerbread and peppermint play dough: At this center children use rolling pins and cookie cutters to play with the dough. Keep in an airtight container.

Touch and Tell: Using tag board gingerbread boys with different textures, children play a tactile matching game. They close their eyes and match the gingerbread by touch then check by opening their eyes.

- Taste-Gingerbread Cookies

Children have the opportunity to taste Gingerbread Men cookies.

- Smell-

Fragrant ginger man magnets: children cut gingerbread men shapes out of gingerbread play dough and let dry. Once dry, decorate with tempera paint and put a magnet on the back.

The Nose Knows: Using gingerbread men Jell-O Jigglers, have the kids match smells with their sense of smell without looking. They smell a bowl of cinnamon then match the smell with the Jell-O Jiggler with the same smell. Children eat the Jell-O jigglers after the activity.

Math:

Graphs:

- Make a graph listing all of the five senses and as the activities are completed, fill in the graph.
- After taking one bite of their Gingerbread Cookies, graph where children bit first (head, arm, leg, etc.)

Counting & Number Recognition:

- Gingerbread Man connect the dots 1-20.

- Gingerbread Man cards 1-20 for concentration, counting and for matching up with a partner.
- Count out small gingerbread pattern pieces or foam candy into cupcake liners labeled with numbers 1-20.

Measuring:

- Using Gingerbread Baby cutouts (9 each) the students measure how tall or long things are around the room.
- Students use peppermint candy to measure the perimeter of their gingerbread boys. They can also see how many can fit inside the boy to measure area.

Gingerbread Man Glyph:

- Students color in their gingerbread man according to characteristics to make their glyph.

Patterns:

- Using foam candy pieces the students make patterns.

Theme:

Art:

- Cut out and decorate construction paper cookies with glue, glitter and markers
- Gingerbread Hat: Students color and cut a gingerbread man head and candy shapes. Glue onto a headband.
- 8.5 x11 gingerbread man cutout on brown construction paper. Take home and decorate with things from around the house.
- Symmetry-review symmetry, have students fold a piece of construction paper in half and using the half gingerbread man template trace around and cut. When they unfold they will have a whole Gingerbread man.
- Make a Gingerbread boy stickers
- Make Gingerbread Houses from graham crackers, frosting and candy the children bring in.
- Cut out gingerbread houses and candy/decorations (make copies from master copy), glue onto blue construction paper and decorate, make snow from torn paper and glitter to make a gingerbread scene to hang in the hallway.

Science:

- (See Sensory Activities)

Social Studies:

- Gingerbread Family: Using a Gingerbread Man Cookie Cutter, children stamp it in paint and stamp onto a large piece of white construction paper. They stamp the members of their family. Under they write "I love my Family."

Language Arts and Reading:

- Books:
My Five Senses by Alik
The Gingerbread Boy by Paul Galdone
The Gingerbread Man by
The Gingerbread Girl by
Gingerbread Baby

- Listen and Do: Gingerbread house listening activity. Students listen for directions for how to color the house.
- KWL:
Before reading the Gingerbread Boy
- Venn Diagram to compare the different versions of the stories read.
- Sequencing-reread the class' favorite version of the story. Make a Language Experience chart of who chased the Gingerbread Man first, second, third, etc. Use simple cards to use in the pocket chart to retell the story.
- Act out story with Gingerbread man stick puppets (can use the same cards used for the pocket chart).
- Create a Gingerbread Man book titled "The Gingerbread Man: How to Make Sure He Can Not Escape!"
- Journals-Have Students journal according to topics that have to do with the activities they have been doing and gingerbread men.

Phonics:

- Trail of Treats worksheet-ABC order
- Plate of Goodies activity-listening, coloring, cutting, Upper and lower letter match
- Cookie Cutter Cutouts worksheet-color by letter.
- Color Partner letters worksheet
- Stamp out words from the Gingerbread Man with ABC stamps.

Phonemic Awareness:

- Fingerplays, poems and songs:
Gingerbread Children
Gingerkids
Who Stole the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?
Gingerbread Houses
George the Gingerbread Man
A-B-CDE
Gingerbread, Gingerbread, turn around
Four Gingerbread Men
- Counting Words-keep track of how many words are spoken in a line
- The Gingerbread Man Can... (B-bounce, C-catch, D-dance, etc)
- Clap out syllables in different words from the stories and/or poems.
- The Name Game-Show a picture or say a name from the Gingerbread Man book. Tell the students that if their name has the same beginning sound to stand up.
- Color Recognition-Gingerbread Boy cutouts with color words on them. Hold them up and the students read the words. Use George the Gingerbread Man poem.