

## The Gingerbread Man Unit

Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year Olds, 2007.

These standards are beacon lights for my curriculum. I adapt them according to the ability of my students. I use them as goals to strive towards or as background building for my students' future learning. These goals are my focus; but not the only objectives being utilized by these lessons. Language goals are used daily.

### I. Virginia Foundation Blocks for Early Learning

1. Scientific Investigation, Reasoning and Life Processes
  - a) Identify the body parts that correspond with each of the five senses.
  - b) Identify basic properties of objects by direct observation
  - c) Sequence objects according to size

### II. Concepts:

1. Christmas cookies and candy are special treats
2. Identify body parts on the gingerbread man ( head, arms, legs, facial features)
3. Identify the body part that corresponds to the five senses
4. Identify large, medium and small gingerbread men /women

### III. Books:

1. *The Gingerbread Man or Boy*: Several versions are available ( my book has no author: pictures by Sari, published by Western Publishing
2. Tell the story using magnet or flannel board props
3. *The Gingerbread Baby* by Jan Brett
4. Teacher Made Book by Teresa Williams to the poem: *George the Gingerbread Man*

### IV. Activities:

1. **Scented Ornament**: Make an gingerbread ornament (recipe included)
2. **Gingerbread Cookies**: Make real gingerbread cookies and decorate them
3. **Play Dough**: Use play dough to gingerbread cookie
4. **Gingerbread Puppet**: sample in Christmas and Gingerbread Activities

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### IV. Activities:

**6. Sandpaper Gingerbread Boy:** Cut out a gingerbread shape in sandpaper. Decorate with ginger spice and ric-rack. glue on wiggle eyes. Sample in the activity section. Run a cinnamon stick across the rough surface.

**7. Gingerbread House:** Make a Gingerbread house with graham crackers that is glued onto a school size milk carton with frosting. Decorate with candies and gumdrops.

**8. Large, Medium and Small Gingerbread:** Preschool Mailbox Dec/Jan 2006 patterns : color, cut, laminate . Have children name or point to the different sizes

**9. Retell Story:** Either with just the story telling props , or children can take turns being the gingerbread man who runs away from the different animals and the little old lady and the little old man

**10. Which Ending?** Retell the story with different endings or make up your own ending, ( gingerbread man escapes, becomes the adopted boy of the elderly couple , or falls in the river, but swims across ) Graph which ending the children like best.

**V. Ideas by author Jean Warren:** (I do not know what resource book these ideas came from as I only had them written out with Jean Warren's name at the top so I would know that she was the author).

- **Does it Dissolve in Water?** This is why the Gingerbread boy was afraid of getting wet, since he would dissolve in water. One item could be a gingerbread cookie or bread. Other suggestions could be items found in the class room such as crayons, scissors, a block, etc. Have the children predict which item will dissolve or melt and which will remain the same.
- Poem : could be made into an interactive book

#### **5 Gingerbread Kids**

5 gingerbread kids  
Cooling by the door.  
A cow ate one,  
Then there were 4

4 gingerbread kids  
Running by the tree  
A pig at one,

#### **1 gingerbread kid**

Running for its life.  
It ran away  
From the farmer's wife.

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Then there were 3.

3 gingerbread kids  
By a pond so blue.  
A fox ate one,  
Then there were 2.

2 gingerbread kids,  
Running in the sun.  
A hen ate one,  
Then there was one.

**V. Ideas by author Jean Warren :** ( I do not know what resource book these ideas came from as I only had them written out with Jean Warren's name at the top so I would know that she was the author).

Songs by Jean Warren:

### **Run, Run, You Can't Catch Me**

To the tune "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"

Run, run, you can't catch me,  
I run too fast, as you can see.  
I outran the farmer, I outran his wife,  
I'll outrun you 'cause I run for my life.  
Run, run, you can't catch me.  
I run too fast; I'm free, I'm free.

### **Gingerbread**

Sung to "Three Blind Mice"

Gingerbread, gingerbread,  
Um,um, good! Um, um, good!  
I like to make it day or night.  
I like to gobble it up in one bite.  
If it ran away, that would be a sight!  
Gingerbread.

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### VI. Additional Resources:

[www.kidzone.ws/thematic/gingerbread/index.htm](http://www.kidzone.ws/thematic/gingerbread/index.htm)

[www.kconnect.com/kc-integrated.html](http://www.kconnect.com/kc-integrated.html)

[www.teachervision.fen.com/lesson-plan/fiction/9.html](http://www.teachervision.fen.com/lesson-plan/fiction/9.html)

[www.first-school.ws/t/xmas/22g.htm](http://www.first-school.ws/t/xmas/22g.htm) ( color sheets)

### VII. Recipe

#### Scented Cinnamon Christmas Ornaments

4 oz can ( approximately 1 cup) cinnamon

1 tbsp. ground cloves

1 tbsp. nutmeg

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup applesauce

2 tbsp white glue

Combine ingredients. Work 2 to 3 minutes ( knead ) until smooth. Roll out to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thickness, do not roll any thinner. Use cookie cutters ( gingerbread men or girls). Let air dry for 24 hours or in a low oven, bake at 200 degrees for a couple of hours until dried out. Be sure to put a hole in ornament to hang it with prior to drying process.