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STUDY GUIDE • Ideas & Activities for Grades K-4

# Blueberry Shoe

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Explore new worlds book by book! Use the following ideas and activities to make reading this book even more fun...

## Reading/Writing/Language Arts

1. Read *Blueberry Shoe* and answer the following questions:

- How did the seeds for the blueberry plant get into the shoe?
- Who filled the shoe with dirt so the seeds could grow?
- Who poked the holes for the roots and the rain?
- Who took the shoelace?

2. Write or draw your own outdoor adventure story. Here are some ideas:

- Write (or draw a picture) about an outdoor activity you like to do. What do you like about it?
- Is there something you don't like about it? Who does the activity with you? What do you learn?
  
- Write (or draw a picture) about a time you lost something. Why was it important to you? Did you ever find it?
- If yes, how? If no, what do you suppose might have happened to it?
  
- Pretend you are a wild animal and write (or draw a picture) about getting ready for winter.
- What do you have to do? What will you eat? Where will you sleep? How will your body adapt to colder temperatures?

## Science/Natural History

1. Choose an animal from the story: vole, fox or bear, and answer these questions:

- What does this animal eat?
- How big is it at birth? How big does it get when full grown? What color is it?
- How many babies does it have? What time of year does it have babies?
- In what kind of home does it live? In what type of terrain or environment does it live?
- What do the animal tracks look like? What sounds does it make?



2. Unscramble these words to find out some types of animals that eat blueberries:

ARBE

RUSILRQE

RIBD

EVLO

EPLOPE

3. Look closely at a blueberry leaf, or another kind of leaf. Draw a picture of the leaf, and answer these questions:

- Does the leaf have lines (veins)? Do they make a pattern of some kind? What are they for?
- Does the leaf look the same on both sides? Is the color the same on both sides?
- Is it smooth, rough, or fuzzy? Are the edges of the leaf smooth? Are they jagged or indented?
- What kind of leaf is it? (Check an encyclopedia or book on plants to identify your leaf.)

4. What are three things that plants need in order to grow? Experiment by growing your own plants in class.

## Geography

1. Where do blueberries grow in North America?
  - Locate the areas on a map. (Hint: For this, and more information about blueberries, go to [www.blueberry.org](http://www.blueberry.org), the North American Blueberry Council website.)
2. Answer these questions about the berries in your back yard.
  - Where do blueberries and other berries grow near you? Where would you go to pick them? (Remember: Don't eat berries that you find without first checking with an adult. Some berries are POISONOUS!)

## Math

1. Estimate how many blueberries it takes to fill one cup. Then count them. How close did you get?
2. If everyone in class eats one blueberry, how many blueberries will that be? How about two blueberries?
3. The following recipe is for one Blueberry Pie:

1 double pie crust (top and bottom)	Preheat oven to 375
4 cups blueberries	Mix and let stand for 10 minutes.
3/4 cup sugar	Line a 9" pie pan with bottom crust.
1/3 cup tapioca	Pour in berry mixture. Top with crust.
1 tablespoon lemon juice	Bake 45 minutes



But you need two pies! How much of each ingredient will you need?

## Art

1. The art in Blueberry Shoe involves printmaking. Try it yourself:
  - Wrap wooden blocks with string. Wrap each block at least three or four times and tie the ends of the string in a knot. Use fat string, skinny, and medium string on different blocks. Roll out tempera paint on a plastic tray or plate with a brayer, or pour and smooth the paint evenly by tipping the container. Stamp your blocks into the paint and then onto sheets of paper to make patterns. Use your patterned papers to make gift-wrap, a book cover, a portfolio for your artwork, or placemats for a class blueberry party!
2. Collect leaves of different types, then:
  - Make leaf montages by brushing paint onto one side of a leaf, then pressing onto paper. Repeat, using different colors of paint and different types of leaves.
  - Make a leaf wreath. Dry and press an assortment of leaves and flowers. Cut a circular wreath shape out of construction paper or paper plates. Glue leaves onto the wreath, covering the paper.
  - Make a leaf crown. Cut a simple crown or headband out of construction paper. Glue fresh leaves and flowers onto the crown.

## Other Activities

1. Make blueberry muffins or pancakes in class. Yum!
2. Make Berry-Good Cookbooks. Share your favorite blueberry recipe, or recipe with another type of berry. Draw a picture of your finished berry goodie. Make copies and distribute to everyone in class.

## Resources

1. For more information on the history, distribution, and production of blueberries check [www.blueberry.org](http://www.blueberry.org), the website of The North American Blueberry Council.
2. For down-loadable materials on animals and animal tracks check the National Wildlife Federation web site at [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org).
3. Check your school or local library for more information on Blueberries and the animals that eat them!
4. For more books on Alaska and the animals that live there, visit the Alaska Northwest Books™ web site at [www.graphicartsbooks.com](http://www.graphicartsbooks.com)

