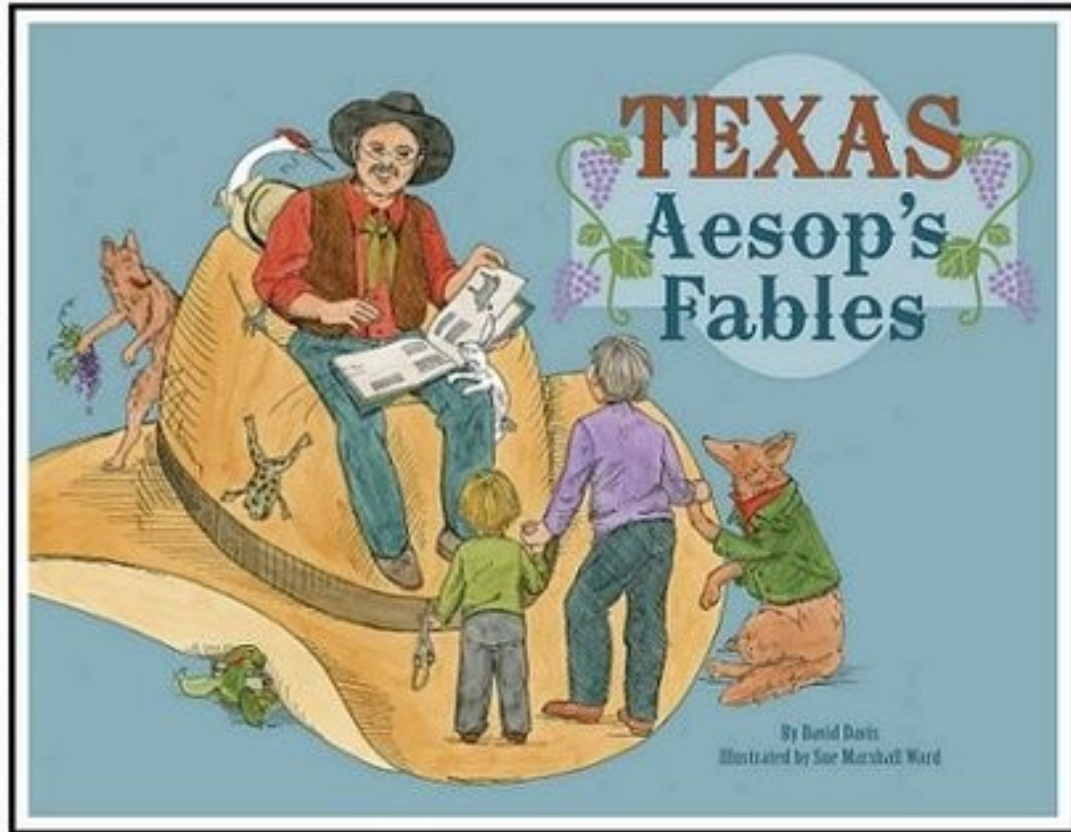


CURRICULUM GUIDE

TEXAS AESOP'S FABLES

Study guide created by David Davis----- Reproducible



By David Davis
Illustrated by Sue Ward

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Texas Mother Goose ISBN 978-1-58980-369-5

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: sales@pelicanpub.com * website: www.pelicanpub.com

Book Description

The classic Aesop's fables retold with a Texas twist. With its unforgettable Texan flavor combined with vibrant, colorful illustrations, this book will delight all ages. The author's good-natured humor encourages young readers to laugh while they learn valuable life lessons.

FUN FACT: Not much is known for sure about Aesop, but tradition says the storyteller was born about 620BC, and was a slave in ancient Greece. Some scholars believe he was originally from Africa. Aesop probably never wrote down any of his tales, but they were well known even 2,500 years ago.

Pre- Reading Activities

- Read the original Aesop's Fables. Compare the original fables with the *Texas Aesop's* versions. How are they alike? How are they different?
- Have the class watch a video featuring a modern storyteller.
- Read *Texas Aesop's Fables* and see if students can name some "Texas lore" or objects named in the fables: (ex. Pony, cactus, cowboy hats, boots, saddle, etc.) Find the real Texas places mentioned in the book.

Discussion Questions

- Where do some scholars think Aesop came from? Some scholars think he was African.
- *Texas Aesop's Fables* is a parody. Do you know what a parody means? A parody is a funny imitation of another style or work. *Texas Aesop's Fables* adds Texas culture to the old Aesop's fables to create a fun book about Texas.
- What is the moral at the end of each fable? The moral is a truth or a piece of wisdom that is taught in each story.
- What was a "general store." in old time Texas? A general store was a sort of old time Walmart where folks could buy everything from feed to buckets to clothing to groceries. Most towns had at least one store like this.

Cross Curriculum Activities: Texas Cowboy History

Everyone thinks about cowboys when they think about Texas. Here are some facts about cowboys:

- The first cowboys were Mexican *Vaqueros*. Texas cowboys adopted their manner of dress. Every piece of clothing a cowboy wore helped him with his work.
- Boots protected his feet from thorns, brush and snakes. Their high heels helped to keep his feet in the stirrups when he rode his horse.
- His wide brimmed hat protected him from the hot sun and rain.
- The spurs he wore on his boots helped him control his horse.
- The leather chaps a cowboy wore when working protected his legs from thorns and brush as he herded cattle through rough country.
- The long neckerchief he wore around his neck protected him from dust kicked up by a herd of cattle.

World History and Geography

- Have students find Greece on a map and look up facts about ancient and modern Greece.

Art

- Have the students draw and color each of the six flags of Texas.
- Have students draw their favorite *Texas Aesop's Fables* character or story.
- Have students make costumes and do Texas Aesop's fable skits in class.
- Use the students drawings to create a display called *The (Your Class) Aesop's Fables*.

Writing

- Have students write their own short fables illustrating one of the morals in *Texas Aesop's Fables*.
- Have students write and draw comic strip versions of some of the Texas Aesop's Fables. Make copies for the whole class.

Thematic Connections

- Family: Aesop's fables were passed down from old to young for generations. Are there any stories passed down in your family? Ask your mom or dad about a time they learned a lesson from something they did when they were young.

Internet Resources:

Aesop's Fables Online

<http://www.amherst.edu/~rjyanco94/literature/mothergoose/rhymes/menu.html>

Wikipedia: Aesop's Fables:

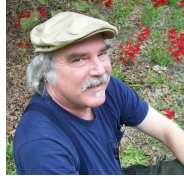
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aesop%27s_Fables

The Handbook of Texas Online:

Everything about Texas

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/index.html>

About the Author



David Davis is a humorist, cartoonist, writer, and speaker. He grew up in San Antonio, Texas. Most of his stories draw on his Texas roots, and his “baby-boomer” love of music.

Davis is the author of *Jazz Cats* and *Ten Redneck Babies*, both of which were named to the Children’s Choice Top 100 list. *Jazz Cats* was a finalist for the Texas Golden Spur Award, as well. His satirical *Night before Christmas* books are perennial comedy best-sellers.

In addition to his books, David has published pen-and-ink artwork, cartoons, poems, humor, and short stories in various magazines and newspapers, including *Travels with Grandpaw*, a popular internet comic strip about old time Texas, featured at a genealogy website. He won an award from the Mississippi Press Association for his political cartooning some years ago.

Davis is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. He is an active speaker and presenter at educational conferences and schools, and he has been a featured author at the Texas Book Festival. David Davis lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

David’s Picture Books

(Pelican Publishing Co.)

A Southern Child’s Garden of Verses, ISBN 978-1-58980-764-8

Texas Aesop’s Fables, ISBN 978-1-58980-569-9

Texas Mother Goose, ISBN 978-1-58980-369-5

Rock ‘N’ Roll Dogs, ISBN 978-1-58980-349-7

Librarian’s Night Before Christmas, ISBN 978-1-58980-336-7

Texas Zeke and the Longhorn, ISBN 978-1-58980-348-0

Ten Redneck Babies: A Southern Counting Book, ISBN 1-58980-232-2

The Nurse’s Night Before Christmas, ISBN 1-58980-152-0

Jazz Cats, ISBN 1-56554-859-0

Redneck Night Before Christmas, ISBN 1-56554-293-2

Trucker’s Night Before Christmas, ISBN 1-56554-656-3



David Davis and Jan Peck teamed up to present a dynamite program to reach every student. "Our goal is to put on the most entertaining, inspiring, motivating school program you've ever had!"

Our highly interactive presentation includes:

An impromptu Jazz Band (with shades, mock musical instruments, and hats) using Davis's Children's Choice Award winning book “*Jazz Cats*” starring your students and teachers. An interactive skit featuring “*Texas Zeke and the Longhorn*”. Funny fables and rhymes from “*Texas Aesop's Fables*” and “*Texas Mother Goose*.”

A GIANT 6'6" CARROT and a dramatic play of “*The Giant Carrot*” starring your students as the actors. You'll take a dive “*Way Down Deep in the Deep Blue Sea*” and go on a “*Pirate Treasure Hunt*”, me maties!

Inspiration for writing, reading, and drawing. Encouragement, inspiration and help with taking the (TAKS) creative writing test for Texas 4th Graders!

Special surprises and gifts for all students and teachers!

For ages PreK-6th; large and small groups.

Visit my website www.davidrdavis.com or write to ddrdavis@gmail.com for details.

