



The Fisherman and the Turtle by Eric A. Kimmel

illustrated by Martha Aviles

Summary

This retelling of the well-known tale, "The Fisherman and his Wife" is set in the ancient Aztec empire of Mexico.

Ideas for Classroom Use

Discussion Questions

Discussion questions - encourage children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

- Why did the fisherman's wife get so upset with him when the fisherman asked the turtle for four fish?
- The wife kept asking for bigger and more powerful wishes. Do you think she'd ever be satisfied?
- Why did the weather on the ocean become more and more violent each time the fisherman went to find the turtle god?

Responding to the Text

Language Arts

Writing

"If you could have three wishes, what would you wish for?"

Join in the "Three Wishes Internet Writing Project." At this site, a lesson plan is provided for children in grades 4-6, but teachers could take the ideas and adapt them according to the age of children in their classrooms. Read the wishes of children posted from around the world and then have your children share and post their wishes after completing the writing project. Or, if your children aren't in grades 4-6, create your own posting!

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/4868/write.html>

Compare and contrast

Using a Venn diagram, compare and contrast various versions of "The Fisherman and His Wife." Venn diagrams are a graphically clear, comparing and contrasting tool, even for kindergarten, and are explained at the following website:

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=378

You will find a simple version of the Grimm tale to use for comparisons at the following site:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/grimm019.html>



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Social Studies

Life in Aztec times

Encourage children to learn more about ancient Aztec culture. They might divide into committees and learn more about a particular part of the culture to share with the rest of the class or claim a topic to share on their own. You will find many ideas for research and classroom ideas for teaching children about ancient Aztec culture at the following websites:

<http://www.kidskonnnect.com/content/view/250/27/>

<http://www.42explore2.com/aztec.htm>

<http://aztecs.mrdonn.org/index.html>

Bartering during Aztec times – a classroom simulation

In ancient Mayan and Aztec times, bartering was the primary form of economic transaction. At the following website, you will find a classroom simulation to help your children experience what it might have been like to participate in an Aztec marketplace:

<http://socialstudies.com/c/article.html?article@TCM251B+af@donn>