



The Three Cabritos

by Eric A. Kimmel

illustrated by Stephen Gilpin

Summary

This is a delightful Mexican retelling of the story of the three billy goats gruff. In this story they cross a bridge over the Rio Grande to attend a Mexican fiesta.

Ideas for Classroom Use

Discussion Questions

Encourage the children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

- > Which of the three cabritos do you think was the bravest and why?
- > Which of the three cabritos was the most clever? How did you find him clever?
- > Share three things we learn about Chupacabra through the interactions the cabritos have with him.

Responding to the Text

Arts/Crafts/Music

What other instruments could entertain the Chupacabra?

Musical instruments don't have to be purchased. Make your own instruments and form your very own classroom fiesta band by using some of the clever yet simple ideas at the following website: www.kinderart.com/teachers/9instruments.shtml

Learn to play the harmonica

If you don't know how to play an instrument, harmonicas are inexpensive and sometimes people have them put away in their closets from long ago.

Find a harmonica and learn to play by using the free lessons and information at the following website: www.harmonica4kids.com

Accordion

Have you ever heard someone play the accordion? Sometimes, you can still hear the accordion played at Italian and German restaurants. Check out your local restaurants to find out if someone plays the accordion there. Perhaps the accordion player would make a visit to your classroom? If you're not sure what accordion music sounds like, you can listen to it by going to the following website: www.live365.com/stations/222666

Fiddle

Is there a difference between a fiddle and a violin? Do a little research to find out and share with your friends or classmates.



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Dance

Make up your very own Chupacabra Dance! Be sure to use some of the movements that Chupacabra does in the book. He leaps, hops and twirls. He prances and leaps! Share your dance with others and/or demonstrate the dance while some of your friends are playing their homemade instruments (see previous.) At the very least, dance to accordion music and have a great time!

Writing/Art/Research

Create a Wanted Poster for Chupacabra!

Work in teams to create wanted posters for Chupacabra. Using extra large poster paper, encourage groups to use the basic template at the following website for ideas:
<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/english/files/wantedposter>

Remind children to ask themselves:

What do you think he looks like? Your version of Chupacabra may look very different than the one in the book. What is he infamous for? Why would Chupacabra be wanted? What kind of reward would be large enough to thank someone who was able to capture or dispose of Chupacabra?

Independent research

Find out more about the legendary Chupacabra! Encourage a few curious children to find out more information about Chupacabra and sightings of him/her (be sure they have adult assistance to peruse the internet). Has Chupacabra been seen in your area?