

The Great Big Turnip



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BOOKR Class Activity Tips

Run time: 3 minutes

Topic: cooperation, asking for help

Writer: European Folktale

Vocabulary: turnip, seed, garden, to pull

Illustration: Ágnes Berthóty

Grammar Structures: past simple, can

Narration: Scott Alexander Young

Focus of the games:

Ages: 6-10

vocabulary (labelling),

reading comprehension (sequencing),

Language level: Beginner

speaking (sentence ordering)

Description: This Russian folktale is about a grandfather who takes care of his garden but one day one of his turnips starts to get bigger and bigger. How is that huge vegetable going to come out of the ground?

Activity Tips

The Turnip

#vocabulary #language skills

Bring a real turnip in the classroom. How many of your learners have ever seen or ever tasted a turnip? Which vegetables are called the “root vegetables”? Compare the turnip’s size to other root vegetables (a carrot, a potato, a piece of ginger) and have a taste test.

Vegetable activity

#cognitive skills #language skills #vocabulary

Revise the name of some vegetables. Prepare some small pieces of vegetables in a bowl beforehand. Ask a learner to come to the front and instead of a piece of paper ask him/her to pick a piece of vegetable and to have a taste. When he/she recognizes the taste, the rest of the group can ask questions to find out which vegetable he/she picked: What colour is it? Is it smaller than a turnip? Is it bigger than ginger? (you can make this task easier by putting the vegetables into the correct order based on the size)

Role-play

#language skills #personal skills

Create a shortened transcript or use the original one and do a drama play together with your group. Present a story in two groups so that everyone can take part, or present the story with the whole group and add some characters to the story. For instance: father, mother, grandson, a spider or a flea, smaller animals can only make the story funnier. Try to emphasize the useful expressions of asking for help and elicit the key notions such as asking for help, problem-solving and cooperation.



CLASS

The origin story

#arts&crafts #cognitive skills

Why did the turnip grow so huge? Come up with an origin story. Depending on the level of the learners ask them to write a short paragraph about the origin story, while younger learners can create a short cartoon (adding sentences) or they can paint only one picture. Give this task as homework and ask them to present the story in the next lesson. Which story do the children like the best?

The Maze

#cognitive skills

Use the worksheet from the worksheet section. Ask the learners to find the way out of the maze by connecting the characters in the correct order. They can colour the picture if they want to.

Who would you ask?

#personal skills #language skills

Encourage the learners to identify with Grandpa. Who would they ask for a favour first? Who would be the next? Ask them to set up a list of people they can count and rely on when they need some help. Then let them explain their choice of people.

Planting

#vocabulary #grammar #project

Read and listen to the story with your learners and ask them to draw a chart of the development of the turnip from seed to soup. The flowchart should be as detailed as possible, using the target vocabulary (seed, soil, water, leaf...) Then encourage them to present their flowchart to the others or to write an explanation.

