

¡Cuentos!



¡CUENTOS!

Recommended for Ages 3 to 7

PreK-Grade 2

A Reproducible Learning Guide for Educators

This guide is designed to help educators prepare for, enjoy, and discuss *¡Cuentos!*
It contains background, discussion questions and activities appropriate for ages 3 to 7.

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The Nora Roberts Foundation
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Smithsonian Associates

Discovery Theater • P.O. Box 23293, Washington, DC • www.discoverytheater.org
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About the Production

This delightful Discovery Theater original offers a fresh take on three classic tales. *The Little Red Hen* (adapted from the Nicaraguan story, "La Gallinita Guinea") asks the question "Who will help?" *Jack and the Beanstalk* proves that small is mighty. And *The Gingerbread Man*...well, he's just one bad cookie. Filled with delightful songs, puppets, and audience participation, this bilingual story-time spectacular is not to be missed!

Why Bilingual?

In our school residencies, teachers were interested in versions of stories that were more accessible to students whose primary language is Spanish, both for literacy purposes and for playing the stories out at home. We worked from children's books to develop the dialogue in each story using both languages so everyone could play. These productions proved so popular that Discovery Theater has added them to our regular season and tours them to local schools, libraries, and daycares and community centers.

TRY IT AT HOME - Make Your Own Gingerbread Man

Materials:

- Brown construction paper
- Trim in various colors
- Googly eyes
- Buttons
- Gem stone stickers
- Ribbon
- Bottles of glue



Directions:

1. Print out the gingerbread man template (found at the bottom of this post) and cut it out. Print on cardstock for easier tracing!
2. Then trace the gingerbread man on a sheet of brown paper.
3. Stack extra sheets of brown paper underneath the one with the gingerbread man on it and cut them all at one time. Repeat for as many gingerbread men as you would like.
4. Place all of the other supplies on a tray.
5. Now, everything is ready for your students to create their own gingerbread collages. Make a gingerbread man display and add the other characters from the story to complete a museum exhibit made by your students!

Find this activity online at: www.funlearningforkids.com/decorate-gingerbread-man-art-activity/

Grow Your Own Big Corn Cob

Materials:

- Milk or water gallon or 1/2 gallon jugs
- SOIL - get good soil at your local store
- Ears of corn – 1 ear of field corn and/or 1 ear of Indian Corn

Directions:

1. Cut the jugs in half, leaving the handle for easy moving
2. Insert the top of the ear of corn into the soil.
3. Water with 1/2 cup of water.
4. Experiment by placing each corn cob in areas with different amounts of sunlight!



Compare the growth! How much water will be needed and how often should you water? Which amount of sunlight helps the corn grow bigger?

This activity is found online with more detail at: www.prekandksharing.blogspot.com/2013/10/falling-into-fall.html

VOCABULARY WORDS

Spanish to English

pequeña gallina roja - little red hen

Jack y las habichuelas mágicas - jack and the beanstalk

hombre de jengibre - gingerbread man

perro – dog

boca – mouth

pollitos – chicks

abuelita – grandma

¡Para! – stop

gigante - giant

panadero – baker

vaca – cow

frijoles mágicos - magic beans

ojos – eyes

zorro-fox

Build Your Own Beanstalk

Materials:

- green Play-Doh or modeling clay
- white and green pipe cleaner
- pencil or thin chopstick
- tape
- paper cup
- green paper
- scissors
- hole puncher



Directions:

1. Mold the green clay into a base for your beanstalk by pressing it into the paper cup "pot"
2. Twist the green and white pipe cleaner around the pencil or chopstick
3. Stick the pencil or stick with pipe cleaners into the clay to form the stalk
4. Draw simple straight lines on green paper to resemble leaves
5. Cut out the leaves
6. Hole punch the cut-out leaves
7. String green pipe cleaner through the freshly punctured holes, leaving space between the leaves
8. Twist and loop the green pipe cleaner with the leaves on it around beanstalk

Optional: Include Jack's farm! Cut a paper plate in half and draw the farm on it. Tape the plate to the paper cup or use pipe cleaner to stand the plate up behind the beanstalk as a backdrop.

Added Element: Take dry lima beans and try adding them to either side of the plate to see how it affects the balance of the cloud plate in accordance to the beanstalk paper towel roll.



ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

We adapted our version of Little Red Hen from the Nicaraguan story, "La Gallinita Guinea." You can find the original, in Spanish, on this site: www.hypersurf.com/~odw/pages/the_little_red_hen_old.html

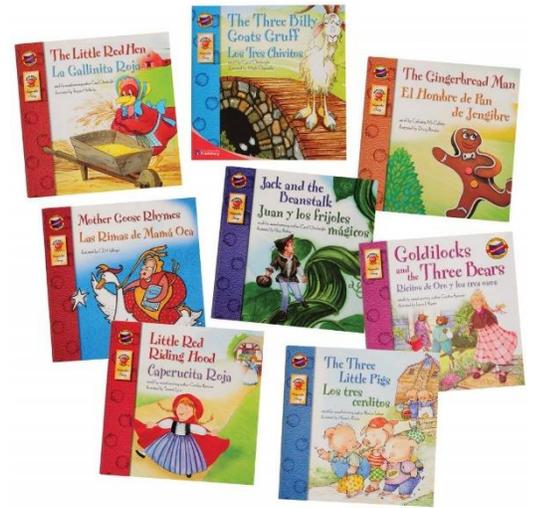
Information about the Smithsonian's collections celebrating Latino culture, arts, and community can be found on the **Smithsonian Latino Center's** website: www.latino.si.edu.

READ...

Bilingual Classic Story Book Set

This story book set includes classic tales such as *Little Red Hen*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *The Three Billy Goat's Gruff*, *The Gingerbread Man*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Mother Goose Rhymes*, and *The Three Little Pigs* all in both Spanish and English! It is a collection of classic fairytales in both languages with one side being English and the other side in Spanish.

These can be found on Amazon through this link:
www.amazon.com/Bilingual-Classic-Story-Book-Set/dp/Boo4IZTMMo



WATCH...



PBS LearningMedia™

This collection of free videos, games, and hands-on activities from PBS KIDS called *Oh Noah!* gives kids ages 4-8 a great introduction to Spanish. In each video, a misunderstanding launches a comic misadventure. Though kids may not understand all the Spanish dialogue --like Noah -- kids can comprehend the story through the rich visuals. With multiple vocabulary-driven, arcade-style games and features, kids will love this playful introduction to the Spanish language!

Visit: www.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/oh-noah

VISIT...

The exhibit **Latino History** at the **National Museum of American History** shows how Latino history is American history. Latinos trace their origins to Latin America and other Spanish colonies, both in the Caribbean and in the contemporary United States. These groups include, but are not limited to, Indigenous, Mestizos, Afro-Latinos, and other mixed-race people. Currently representing the largest ethnic minority in the country, Latinos have participated in the creation and growth of this nation well before it was named the United States. Complex stories of colonization, immigration, and slavery make Latino history an infinite source for inquiry and knowledge. Explore many complex Latino narratives through our exhibits, collections, archives, programs, and blogs.

More information at: www.americanhistory.si.edu/topics/latino-history



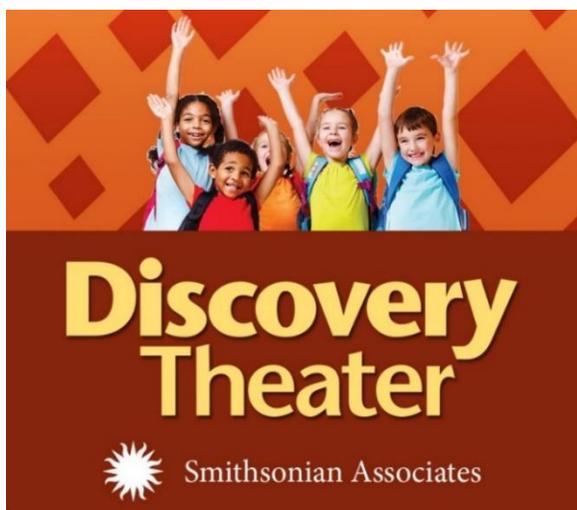


Smithsonian Institution

OUR MISSION: "THE INCREASE AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE"

Smithsonian Associates advances the Institution's mission through life-enriching educational and cultural experiences inspired by the Smithsonian's research and collections for DC-region students, families, and adults, and for learning communities nationwide.

Discovery Theater has been presenting DC-area children with live educational performances for almost 40 years. With programs that enrich the Smithsonian experience for nearly 50,000 children annually, Discovery Theater is a gateway to the exhibits, collections, and themes contained in the museums and galleries on the National Mall and beyond. We explore American history and cultures, folk tales from around the world, and exciting, accessible science and math programs in the company of puppeteers, storytellers, dancers, actors, and musicians. Discovery Theater performances unite ideologies, enact themes that reflect the diversity of its audiences, open avenues of self-reflection, and offer an enjoyable means for parents and teachers to demonstrate life's lessons. There's so much to do and explore at the Smithsonian—and Discovery Theater is the ideal place to begin!



Our Location

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