





Goodness, Gracious! It's Gingerbread!

The scrumptious smell of spicy gingerbread is sure to get your students' attention. Try these tempting treats and ideas to reinforce skills across the curriculum.

ideas by Nicole Iacovazzi



Gingerbread Graphing

Recording data on a bar graph



Read aloud *The Gingerbread Boy* by Paul Galdone. Discuss how the old woman made the gingerbread boy with flour, water, and spices. On the board, help children list some of the ingredients used in gingerbread. Pass around spice containers of ground ginger, allspice, cinnamon, and cloves for students to sniff. Ask children if they have smelled warm gingerbread right out of the oven. Have them name some mouth-watering adjectives to describe gingerbread.

Then tempt students' taste buds with this graphing idea. As a class, make gingerbread men using the recipe below. Or bake them ahead of time and provide one gingerbread man for each child.



For graphing practice, provide each child with a copy of the reproducible record sheet on page 9. Next, give each child a gingerbread cookie and tell him to take only one bite out of it. Together record the results of the gingerbread tasting. Graph which part of the gingerbread cookie was eaten first—head, arm, foot, or body. Determine which part was the most commonly eaten and the least commonly eaten. Finally, allow children to enjoy the rest of their gingerbread cookies!



Gingerbread Cookies

1 1/2 c. molasses
1 c. packed brown sugar
2/3 c. cold water
1/3 c. shortening
6 1/2 c. flour

2 tsp. ginger
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. allspice
1 tsp. cloves

Mix together molasses, brown sugar, water, and shortening. Add all other ingredients and cover for 2 hours. Heat oven to 350°. On a floured surface, roll out dough until it is one-fourth inch thick. Cut out gingerbread men with cookie cutters and place them on a greased cookie sheet. Bake 10 minutes and cool. Decorate with frosting; use raisins for eyes and red cinnamon candies for buttons if desired.

Save the Gingerbread Boy! 🍪

Writing an alternative story ending

In *The Gingerbread Boy* by Paul Galdone, the quick but arrogant cookie-boy is eaten when he is outsmarted by a fox. Of course gingerbread boys are made to be eaten, but what if this one got away? After reading the book, have your students name ways to rescue the Gingerbread Boy from the fox. Then engage students in this follow-up activity that results in a clever bulletin board display.

To prepare for the activity, write the letter shown on chart paper. Fold the letter and place it in a large envelope addressed to your class. Open the envelope in front of the students and read the letter together. Ask students to think of new endings for the story in which the Gingerbread Boy survives. Then, in reply to the letter, have students write their own stories in which the Gingerbread Boy is saved from the fox.

To create a bulletin board, enlarge, color, and cut out the pattern on page 10 to make a large Gingerbread Boy. Mount it in the center of a bulletin board along with the letter. Add student stories and the title "Save the Gingerbread Boy!" Your students and guests will enjoy reading these happy endings!

Dear Friend,
I hear that you've read my story! I just wanted to tell you that the ending is all wrong. I was never meant to be eaten by that tricky fox! Please help me! Can you please write my story a new way so that I DON'T get eaten in the end? I want to be able to play with all my gingerbread friends! I hope you can save me! Thanks!



Your pal,

The Gingerbread Boy

