The Gingerbread Unit

Gingerbread Man Books


Lots of activities to go with Jan Brett’s book can be found on her website at www.janbrett.com
Poems and Songs

The Gingerbread Man
(tune of "Wheels on the Bus")

The gingerbread man ran through the town,
through the town, through the town.
The gingerbread man ran through the town,
singing, "Catch me if you can!"

He ran away from a /c/ /ow/*
a /c/ /ow/, a /c/ /ow/
He ran away from a COW,
singing, "Catch me if you can!"

*replace cow with sheep, dog, etc.

Then he came to a /f/ /ox/,
/f/ /ox/, /f/ /ox/,
The fox sat on a box and said...
"You can trust me"
Then he ate him up
YES SIR-EE!

Ten Little Gingerbread Men

Ten little gingerbread men,
Baking brown in the oven;
One hopped up and out the door,
Ran down the lane and was seen no more.

Nine little gingerbread men,
Baking brown in the oven;
One hopped up and out the door,
Ran down the lane and was seen no more.

Eight little gingerbread men,
   Baking brown in the oven;
One hopped up and out the door,
Ran down the lane and was seen no more.

Seven little gingerbread men,
   Baking brown in the oven;
One hopped up and out the door,
Ran down the lane and was seen no more.

Six little gingerbread men,
   Baking brown in the oven;
One hopped up and out the door,
Ran down the lane and was seen no more.

Five little gingerbread men,
   Baking brown in the oven;
One hopped up and out the door,
Ran down the lane and was seen no more.

Four little gingerbread men,
   Baking brown in the oven;
One hopped up and out the door,
Ran down the lane and was seen no more.

Three little gingerbread men,
   Baking brown in the oven;
One hopped up and out the door,
Ran down the lane and was seen no more.
Two little gingerbread men,
Baking brown in the oven;
One hopped up and out the door,
Ran down the lane and was seen no more.

One little gingerbread man,
Baking brown in the oven;
One hopped up and out the door,
Ran down the lane and was seen no more.

The little old woman peeked inside,
And cried out "Eek!" for, to her surprise,
There were no little gingerbread men,
Baking brown in the oven.

One little, two little, three little
Gingerboys,
Four little, five little, six little
Gingerboys,
Seven little, eight little, nine little
Gingerboys,
Ten little Gingerbread Boys.

**Gingerbread Man Song**
*tune: The Muffin man*

Oh, do you know the Gingerbread Man,
The Gingerbread Man, the Gingerbread Man?
Oh, do you know the Gingerbread Man,
Who ran and ran and ran?

He said, "Catch me if you can,
If you can, if you can."
He said, "Catch me if you can,"
Then ran and ran and ran.

I can run like the Gingerbread Man.
The Gingerbread Man, the Gingerbread Man.
I can run like the Gingerbread Man,
Now catch me if you can.

Gingerbread Scavenger Hunt
Put little notes around the house or classroom and let the children find the gingerbread man by following the clues. If the weather is nice you can take the hunt outside, to the neighbors etc.

Gingerbread Graph
Let the children take one bite of their cookie and then graph where they took their bite. WHERE DID YOU BITE YOUR COOKIE? Head, Arm, Leg

Who Stole the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?

Sit in a circle and chant
"Who stole the cookies from the cookie jar?"
Everyone gets a cookie when the game is done.

Who stole the cookies from the cookie jar?  
**Mommy** stole the cookies from the cookie jar!
Who, me?
Yes, you!
Couldn't be!
Then who?
The Gingerbread Man Book
Make a gingerbread man escape book from this site
http://www.hubbardscupboard.org/seasonal_related.html#Gingerbread

Gingerbread Man Puppet
Use a blackline master for the head and the body of the gingerbread man. The students color, cut, and glue onto a brown lunch sack.

Using the same template make a Gingerbread Man Glyph
Directions for the gingerbread man glyph

Buttons
If you are a girl, color the gingerbread man’s buttons pink.
If you are a boy, color the gingerbread man’s buttons blue.

Nose
If you have blonde hair, color the nose yellow.
If you have red hair, color the nose red.
If you have brown hair, color the nose brown.
If you have black hair, color the nose black.

Eyebrows
If you are right handed, color the eyebrows orange.
If you are left handed, color the eyebrows purple.

Tongue
If you have blue eyes, color the tongue blue.
If you have green eyes, color the tongue green.
If you have brown eyes, color the tongue brown.
Icing on arms and legs
If your favorite dessert is ice cream, color the icing on the arms and legs blue.
If your favorite dessert is cookies, color the icing on the arms and legs brown.
If your favorite dessert is cake, color the icing on the arms and legs green.

Eyelids
If you are 5 years old color the eyelids brown.
If you are 6 years old color the eyelids black.

Story Sequencing
Teach your child to sequence a story by using characters to retell the story. Gingerbread Story characters can be found at
http://janbrett.com/gingerbread_baby_masks_main.htm

Have your child line up the characters as they appear in the story by creating a clothesline between two chairs and providing clothespin for them to use to clip the characters on the line.

Math Activities

Pattern Cards
Diecut gingerbread men in two or three different colors for an AB or an ABC pattern. Teach your child how to make a pattern using the gingerbread men.

File Folder Games
Make a file folder games using gingerbread cutouts with numbers on them. Give your child large checkers, milk jug lids or buttons (if they are old enough) and let them put the correct number on the gingerbread men. There is a pre-made folder game located at
http://www.preschoolprintables.com/filefolder/gingerbread/filefolderginger.shtml
Magnetic Gingerbread Men and Cookie Sheet
Purchase an inexpensive metal cookie sheet and write the numbers 1-10 on it with a permanent marker. Make paper gingerbread men and number with the same numbers. Have your child match the gingerbread man to the correct number.

Sorting
Cut a supply of gingerbread men in different colors and sizes. Have children sort them by color and/or size. You can purchase gingerbread men erasers from some supply stores.

Size Seriation
Cut a supply of gingerbread men in different sizes. Put gingerbread man cutouts in order according to size.

Predictable Books for Shared Reading/Writing
Make a predictable book with each child’s name in it, using the following writing frame:

"Stop, stop!" said (student name).
But the Gingerbread Man said:
"Run, run, as fast as you can,
You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!"
Easy Gingerbread People

This is an incredibly easy and fun gingerbread recipe. You make it with butterscotch pudding!

**Ingredients:**
1 package (6-serving size) butterscotch pudding and pie filling (Jell-O is one brand of this)
3/4 cup butter
3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 egg
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 t. baking soda
1 T. ground ginger
1 1/2 t. ground cinnamon

**Directions:**

Cream pudding and pie filling mix with butter and sugar. Add egg and blend well. Combine flour, baking soda, ginger, and cinnamon. Blend into pudding mixture. Chill dough until firm, about 1 hour. Roll dough on a floured board to about 1/4 inch thickness and cut with cookie cutter. Place on greased baking sheets; use a straw to make a hole in the top of the cookie for hanging on the tree if desired. Bake at 350 degree F for 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from oven and cool on wire rack. Decorate if desired. Yields: 16 to 18 gingerbread cookies. Note: you can lower the sugar content of these sugars by using sugar-free butterscotch pudding and pie filling mix.

Gingerbread Cookies

Purchase a box of gingerbread mix. Make the dough according to package directions. Using a gingerbread cookie cutter, let each child cut out a gingerbread man for snack time.
Gingerbread Playdough

1 cup flour
1/2 cup salt
2 tsp. cream of tartar
1 cup water
1 tsp. veg. oil
lots of cinnamon, allspice, ginger, nutmeg, whatever!

DIRECTIONS: Mix the dry ingredients. Play with the spices till you get the scent you want and the color. Mix water and oil together first and THEN add them to the dry ingredients and stir. In a pot, cook the mixture for two to three minutes, stirring frequently. The dough will start to pull away from the sides of the pan and clump together. Take the dough out of the pan and knead the dough until it becomes soft and smooth. Allow to cool and store in an air tight container.

Cut out large Gingerbread Man templates and let the children use fabric pieces to decorate them.