

Lesson 4: Caveman

Getting Started

? Big Ideas

- How do differences make each person unique?



Facts and Definitions

- A **fossil** is any remains, impression, or trace of a living thing of a former geologic age, such as a skeleton or footprint.



Skills

- Identify and discuss different rocks, including their role in geologic formations and distinguishing geologic regions. (S)
- Use oral and written language to answer open-ended questions. (LA)
- Analyze characters, including their traits, feelings, relationships, and changes. (LA)
- Write to record ideas and reflections. (LA)



Materials

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|--------------------------------|---|
| ✓ <i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar | ✓ coffee grounds |
| ✓ cold coffee | ✓ colored pencils or markers* (Activity 2 - Option 1) |
| ✓ flour | ✓ items to imprint for fossils |
| ✓ journal | ✓ measuring cups and spoons |
| ✓ mixing bowl and spoon | ✓ modeling clay* (Activity 2 - Option 2) |
| ✓ salt | ✓ waxed paper |

Introduction

Ask your child who the Warden and Mr. Pendanski are and what their roles are at the camp. Discuss whether digging holes is a good idea for boys who have committed crimes. Ask your child if she can think of anything better the boys could do at Camp Green Lake.

Reading and Questions

Today your child will read Chapters 8-12 in *Holes*. Assign four of the questions below for your child to answer in her journal and use the remaining questions in a discussion.

1. What is a yellow spotted lizard?

- A poisonous lizard that lives in the desert.

2. What is the wreck room?

- It is a place where the boys hang out when they are finished digging. Everything in the wreck room is falling apart.

3. What nickname did the boys give Stanley? Why? Do you think it was a good choice? Why or why not?

- Caveman. Answers will vary.

4. What did Stanley find when he was digging his second hole? Why did Stanley not get the day off?

- A fossil. Mr. Pendanski told him the Warden was not interested in fossils.

5. Why do you think the other boys let X-Ray be their leader?

- Answers will vary.

6. How were the boys at Camp Green Lake similar to and different from other boys?

- Answers will vary.

7. What did Zero tell Mr. Pendanski he wanted to do with his life? Why would he say this?

- Dig holes. Answers will vary.

8. Do you like Mr. Pendanski? Why or why not?

- Answers will vary.

Activities

Activity 1: Happy Campers

Let your child continue to record information about the boys at Camp Green Lake on the "Happy Campers" pages from Lesson 2.

Activity 2: The Yellow-Spotted Lizard

In Chapter 8, the author describes a yellow-spotted lizard. When authors provide detailed descriptions, it is called imagery. The description creates an image in the mind of the reader. Let your child select one of the following options.

Option 1

For this option, your child can illustrate the lizard in its desert environment based on the author's description. On the page, "The Yellow-Spotted Lizard" (Option 1), ask your child to record the author's description of this dangerous lizard.

Option 2

For this option, your child can build a model of the lizard using modeling clay. The model should reflect the author's description of the lizard.

Activity 3: Your Future

Ask your child why it is important to think about the future, even as a young person. Discuss the fact that all people have their own talents, special abilities, and interests that help them decide what to do in the future. This is why people have different jobs and hobbies.

Ask your child to pretend that she is a camper at Camp Green Lake, and Mr. Pendanski has just asked her what she wants to do with her life. Ask her to write her response in her journal and to explain her answer.

Activity 4: Make Your Own Fossil

Stanley found a fossil when he was digging his hole. Ask your child what archaeologists can learn about a geographical region by looking at the fossils and rocks found in the earth. Explain that **fossils** are created when plants or animals left impressions or even parts of their bodies in the moist soil many years ago. This soil dried out and turned into rocks.

For this activity, your child will make her own fossil model, using the directions found on the page "Make Your Own Fossil" page. She will follow the dough recipe and then find objects to imprint. When the dough dries, she will have a model that resembles a fossil. Some ideas for fossils to imprint include sticks, plastic bugs or dinosaurs, shells, or chicken bones.

Wrapping Up

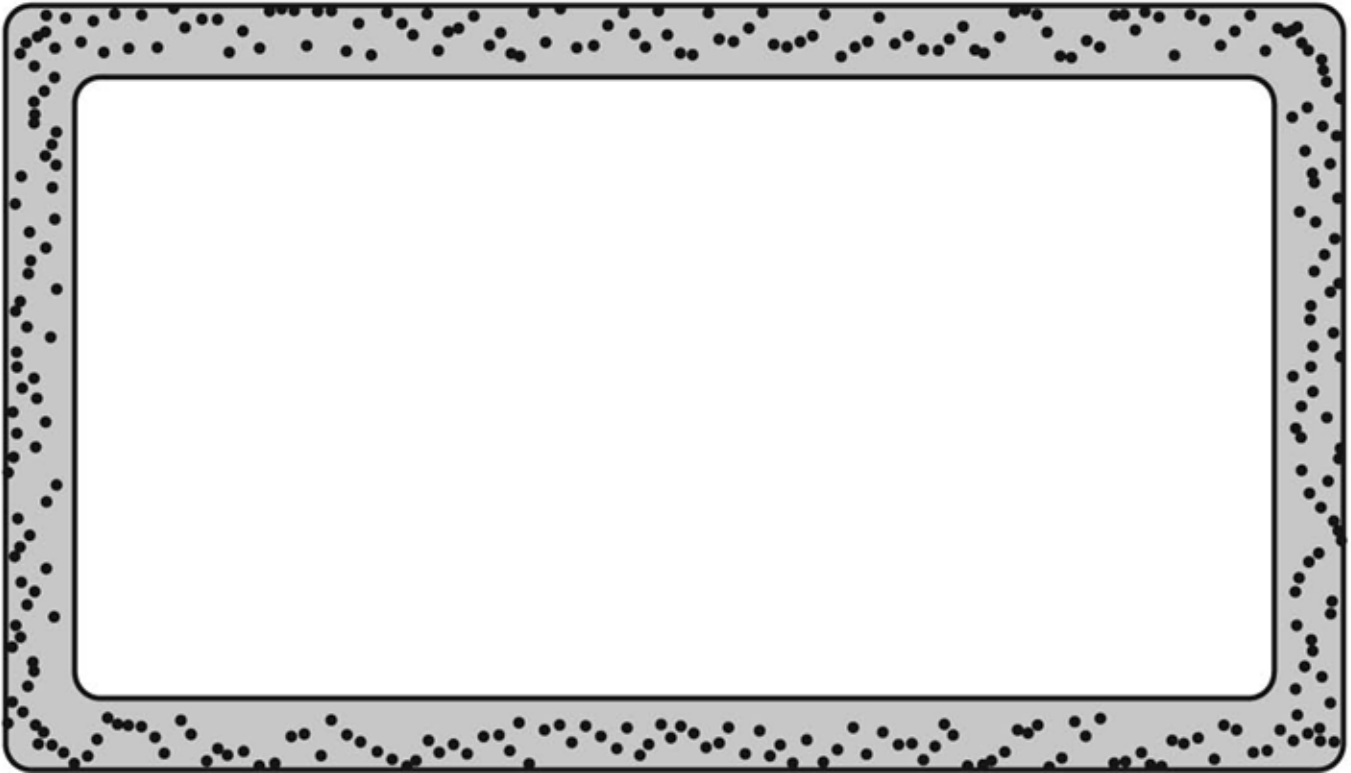
Ask your child what she learned about the boys and the staff at Camp Green Lake in today's reading.

Life Application

If possible, visit a museum that has fossil samples. Discuss where the fossils were found and what living things made them.

The Yellow-Spotted Lizard

Directions: Record the author's description of this dangerous lizard and illustrate it in the box at the bottom of the page.



Make Your Own Fossil

Directions: Make your own fossils by following the dough recipe below and imprinting objects into the dough.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup cold coffee
- 1 cup used coffee grounds
- measuring cups
- mixing spoon
- medium-sized bowl
- waxed paper

Directions:

1. Stir together coffee, coffee grounds, salt, and flour until mixed thoroughly.
2. Knead the dough on waxed paper.
3. Roll the dough into different sized balls and flatten them on the waxed paper using your hand.
4. Imprint objects in the dough to create fossils. Remove objects after impressions are made.
5. Leave overnight to dry.

Fossils to Imprint:

- twigs
- leaves
- dead hard-shelled bugs
- seashells
- chicken bones
- plastic dinosaur models
- footprints from other toys
- skin textures from other toys

