

A teacher's guide
created by Marcie Colleen
based upon the picture book
written by Sophia Gholz and
illustrated by Dave Shephard
SLEEPING BEAR PRESS™

This classroom guide is designed for students in first through third grade. It is assumed that teachers will adapt each activity to fit the needs and abilities of their own students.

It offers activities to help teachers integrate *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter!* into the curricula.

All activities were created in conjunction with the Common Core and other relevant content standards.

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To learn more about Sophia Gholz, visit her at www.sophiagholtz.com. To learn more about Dave Shephard, visit him at www.daveshephard.com.

Before You Read...

Before reading *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter!*...

Look closely at the Front Cover ~

- Read the title aloud.
- Describe what you see.
- Who do you think the boy is? What is he doing?
- Imagine you are the boy in the illustration. How does this pose make you feel?
- Dave Shephard includes some fun use of shadows throughout *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter!* What do you notice about the use of shadow on the front cover?
- When do you think this story takes place? Today or a long time ago? What clues on the cover tell you this?
- Can you guess what the story might be about?

The Back Cover~

- Describe what you see.
- Read the text on the back cover.
- Does this text make you want to read the book? Why or why not?

English Language Arts

Reading Comprehension

Now read or listen to the book.

Help students summarize in their own words what the book is about.



- Digging and dinosaurs were a part of Jack’s childhood, according to the opening pages of *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter!* How so?
- Why do you think young Jack wished that dinosaurs were still alive?
- Jack, at a young age, wanted to be a paleontologist. What does a paleontologist do?
- What was Jack’s first fossil?
- Find Montana on a map. How do you think it is that fossilized seashells were found in Montana?
- What kind of fossil does Jack find while hiking in the cliffs? How do you think this made him feel?
- What were the struggles that Jack faced in school?
- What motivated Jack to learn “as much about science as he could on his own”?
- Was Jack able to solve his struggles to read? What impact did this struggle have on him and his dream of being a paleontologist?
- Because he could not be a paleontologist, Jack searched for a way “to work as closely to them as possible.” How did he make this happen?
- What was Jack’s job at the Princeton University’s natural history museum?
- Even though he struggled with reading words, “Jack was an expert at reading fossils.” Explain what this statement means in your own words.
- When Jack is promoted and sent into the field he makes a discovery in cliffs of Montana. What does he find? Why is this significant?
- Name at least 3 accomplishments of Jack’s in the field of paleontology.

Let’s talk about the people who made *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter!*

- Who is the author?
- Who is the illustrator?
- What kind of work did each person do to make the book?



Now, let’s look closely at the illustrations.

- Dave Shephard includes illustrations of several species of dinosaurs throughout the pages of *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter!* How many different dinosaurs can you find?
- Do an image search on the internet to determine what kinds of dinosaurs are depicted on each page.
- Create your own drawing of a dinosaur.
- Display the finished dinosaur drawings in the classroom.

Reading Nonfiction

While reading *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter!* aloud to the class, have students take notes in two columns:

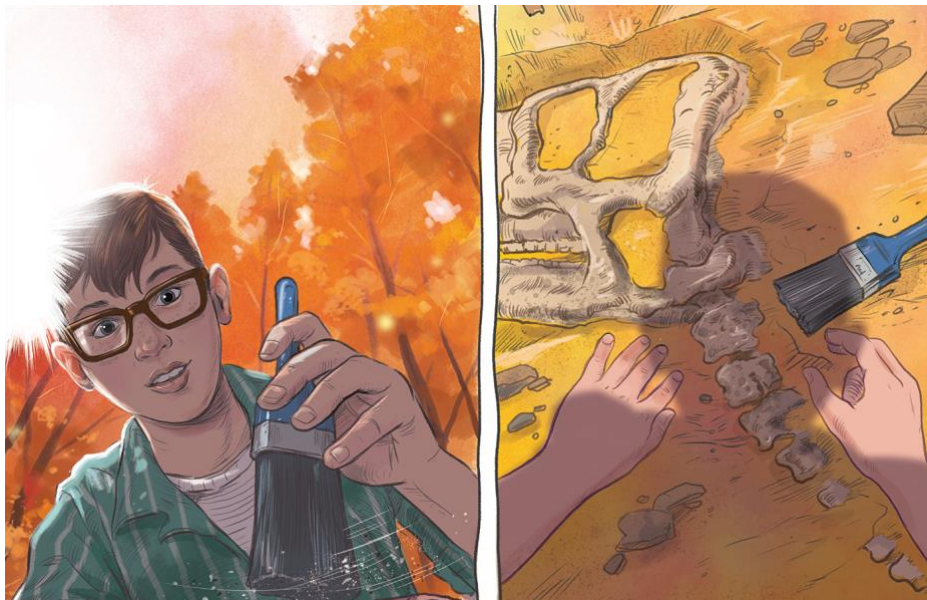
- *Things We Learned*
- *Questions We Have*

Pause before each page turn to add notes to the columns. These columns can either be individual or hung on the board and worked on as a class.

Things We Learned (Facts)	Questions We Have	Answers We Found

- Once the story is read, discuss the *Questions We Have* column.
 - Were any of these questions answered as the story went along?
 - If so, ask students to find the answer within the text.
 - Record the answer next to the question in a third column labelled *Answers We Found*.
- For all remaining questions in the *Questions We Have column*, that have yet to be answered, students will need to take the steps to find answers, either through Internet or book research.
 - Discuss how to find answers to questions through research.
 - Assign students to specific questions to help them focus.
 - Record all answers in the *Answers We Found* column.
- After the answers have been shared with the class, engage in a discussion on research practices.
 - What was the most difficult about finding answers?
 - Was it easier to find answers on the Internet or in a book?
 - Which source is more reliable, the Internet or a printed book? Why?
 - How can you determine whether to trust a source?
 - What tips would you give someone who is about to do research?
- Read the More About Jack Horner section at the back of the book.
 - Create an additional chart to document what information in this section was included in the story and what information was not included.
 - Why do you think Gholz chose to include certain information and leave other information to the back matter?
 - Choose three facts from the back matter that were not included in the story and explain why you think each was excluded.

Extension: Design and illustrate posters representing each Fact, Question, and researched Answer based on *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter!* and display them within the classroom.



Dino-Vocabulary

Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter! contains many "dinosaur-related" words which may be new for students. Encourage them to use context clues from both the text and illustrations to infer meanings.

Peculiar	ancient	fossil	cataloged
irregular	textures	collection	exhibits
Nestled	soaring	skeleton	promotion
Landscape	prestigious	assemble(d)	spied
Intact	embryo	excavate(d)	specialist

Additional Exploration:

- While they read, ask students to look carefully for words they do not know. As soon as they come across a new vocabulary word, they should jot it down.
- Look up the unknown word in the dictionary. (Depending on the level of your students, a student volunteer can do this or the teacher can.) Read the definition.
- Come up with a way to remember what the word means. Using Total Physical Response, students can create an action that symbolizes the word and helps them remember it.

Prefix Rex and Suffix-saurus

There are many different ways to create a dinosaur name. Sometimes the dinosaur is given a name that describes something unusual about its body, head, or feet. Some are named after the place they are found, others are named for their behavior or size, and some are named to honor a person.

Often, a name for a dinosaur is chosen by combining Greek and Latin prefixes, roots and suffixes. Research these prefixes, roots and suffixes.

See www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/allabout/Nameroots.shtml for a detailed chart of dinosaur prefixes, roots and suffixes.

Using the dinosaurs mentioned and or visually depicted in *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter*, determine the meaning of their names. For example, Hadrosaur=large lizard. Spinosaurus=thorn or backbone lizard.



Create Your Own Dinosaur

Use the research from the activity above and create your own dinosaur by combining prefixes, roots and the suffixes.

Then draw a picture of your dinosaur based on its name and characteristics, and write a paragraph about the new dinosaur.

Lastly, make a poster of your dinosaur, with the descriptive paragraph at the bottom, to display around the classroom or in hallway.

Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is an imitation of a sound in words. In *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter!*, onomatopoeia is used to describe the sounds of digging and excavating fossils.

- Discuss why writers use onomatopoeia, and perhaps why author Sophia Ghos chose to use onomatopoeia when writing Jack Horner's story.
- Create a list of onomatopoeia from *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter!* What are some other sounds you can think of?
- As a class, create a soundscape for *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter!* Create your own onomatopoeia for the pages which do not include any already.
- Demonstrate how conductors use hand motions to set the tempo and noise level of an orchestra. Conduct the class in a musical symphony of Jack's story.

Science

Dinosaur Research Project: Become an Expert Like Jack

Take a trip to the school library and research a dinosaur of your choice. You may even want to choose a dinosaur mentioned in *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter*. Maybe even the *Maiasaura*, which was named by Jack Horner.

Possible sources for information:

- Nonfiction books
- Encyclopedias
- The Internet

Take notes and gather as much information as possible on the following 6 topics:

- Physical traits
- Food
- Habitat
- Babies
- Predators/Survival
- Other fun facts



Once the information is gathered, work to create either an illustrated poster or booklet of the findings.

How does your researched dinosaur compare to the others? What are the similarities? What are the differences?

Dinosaur Museums and Archaeological Digs

Jack Horner worked at Princeton University's natural history museum. And while that museum is no longer, there are several dinosaur museums and/or dig sites that you can visit throughout the United States.

You can also virtually visit a few of these dinosaur museums and digs on the Internet.

- Museum of Western Colorado in Grand Junction, Colorado
- Wyoming Dinosaur Museum in Thermopolis, Wyoming
- Judith River Dinosaur Institute in Billings, Montana
- Casper College Tate Geological Museum in Casper, Wyoming
- The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, South Dakota
- Fossil Butte National Monument in Kemmerer, Wyoming
- Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, Connecticut
- The Bunny Museum in Pasadena, California

Explore all of the things to see and do at one of these museums or dig sites and create a tourism brochure encouraging people to visit.

DOUBLE BONUS: Learn more about dinosaur museums at the following sites:

- <http://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/destinations/2013/08/11/10-best-places-to-see-dinosaurs/2637807/>
- <https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/world-best-dino-museums/index.html>.

Ask the Paleontologist

Invite a paleontologist to your class or ask them to visit via videochat to teach about dinosaurs and fossil digs. The list of museums and dig sites above can be a great resource in contacting a paleontologist.

What do you want to know about? Write a list of questions ahead of time and provide them to the paleontologist.

During the visit, practice taking notes and creating follow up questions.

After the visit, draft a written report and present what you learned.

For something fun and extra watch this short YouTube video on paleontologists. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FjyKmpmQzc>.



Math

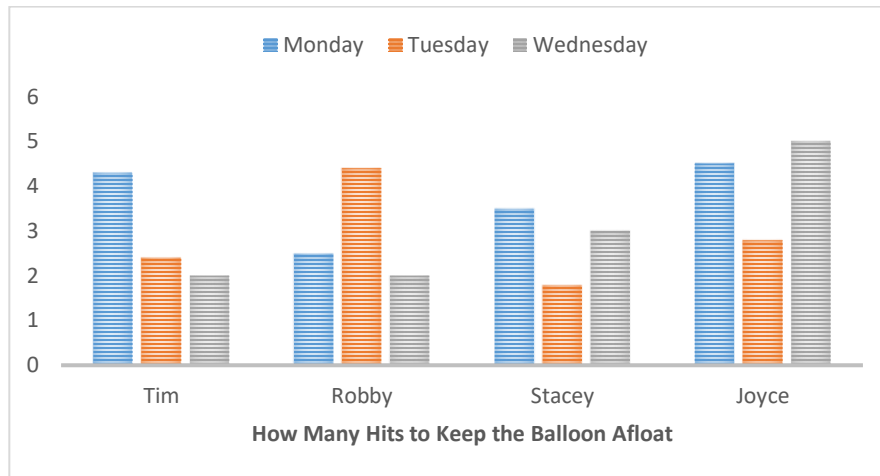
Graphing Persistence

In *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter!*, it is Jack's persistence and not giving up, that lead to his dream career working with dinosaurs.

Try the following activity to learn the power of persistence.

- Play a game to see how high each student can build a tower out of blocks or how many times they can hit a balloon without letting it touch the floor. These activities build motor skill and concentration.

- Create a graph and chart results over several days. Students should work independently and try for their personal best. Goals can be set at the end of each session—what to try and what to accomplish the next day.



Social Studies

Jack Wouldn't Give Up

Someone who persevered over something that they struggle with is someone who makes a good role model or someone to "look up to". Why would Jack Horner be a good role model?

Introduce the idea of "Perseverance" or "never giving up".

- Sing "The Itsy Bitsy Spider". How does the spider show perseverance? What obstacles does the spider have? Why does the spider continue to try?
- Read "The Carrot Seed" by Ruth Krauss. How does the boy in the story show perseverance? What obstacles does the boy have? Why does the boy continue to try?
- What about Jack Horner? What obstacles stood in his way? Why do you think he continues to try?

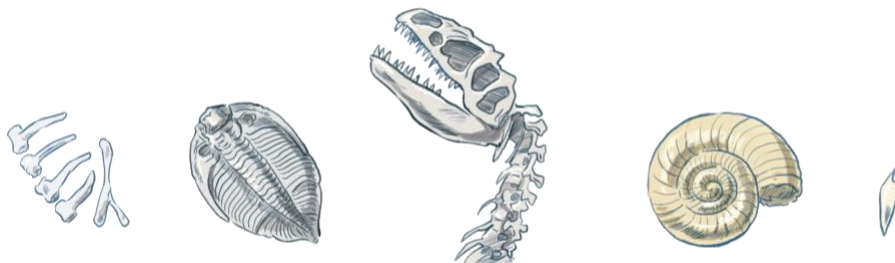
Mural Activity

Tell the class that they will be working together to make a mural of Jack Horner's story. First brainstorm a list of the things they want to include in the mural. Use many art supplies to make the different objects and characters with markers, glue, scissors and colored paper.

When everyone is finished, arrange the pictures on a large piece of bulletin board paper. Then use quotes from the story to make labels for the different pictures on sentence strips.

Don't be afraid to reach for your dreams! Have children write down or draw at least one of their dreams or something that they want to accomplish.

Display these dreams near the mural with the title "I Won't Give Up."



Famous People With Dyslexia

Jack Horner struggled in school because he has dyslexia. Dyslexia is a learning problem that makes it tough to read both letters and numbers. However, he excelled at reading landscape irregularities to find fossils.

Many very smart and talented people struggle with dyslexia.

Research one of these people in the library and on the Internet.

A list of fourteen are below to get you started, but many more are out there to choose from also!

- Cher
- Anderson Cooper
- Albert Einstein
- Pablo Picasso
- Richard Branson
- George Washington
- Henry Winkler
- Octavia Spencer
- Steven Spielberg
- Leonardo da Vinci
- Napoleon
- Winston Churchill
- Carl Jung
- Thomas Edison



Possible sources for information:

- Nonfiction books
- Encyclopedias
- The Internet

Take notes and gather as much information as possible on the following five topics about your person:

- Early Life/Childhood/Family
- Famous work
- Legacy
- Fun facts

Once the information is gathered, instruct students to create an illustrated poster or booklet of the findings.

Dear Jack Horner...

Jack Horner is inspirational for overcoming his struggles to achieve his dreams. Using the moments in *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter!* as inspiration, write a letter to Jack Horner. The letter should include:

- Detail about what you found inspirational about the book
- An example of how you could plan to use this inspiration in regards to your own dreams
- A thank you for the inspiration