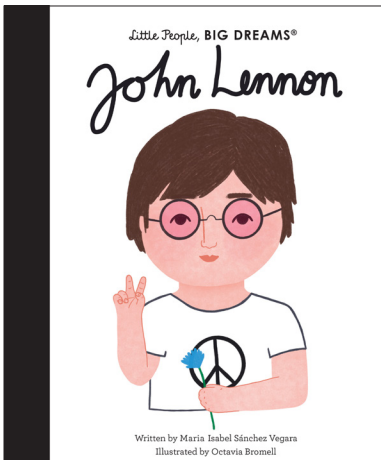


Little People, BIG DREAMS™

TEACHERS' GUIDE



John Lennon

Little People, BIG DREAMS™

Written by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara

Illustrated by Octavia Bromell

\$15.99 US/\$18.99 CAN

ISBN: 9780711257672

Ages: 4 to 8 (Grades: PreK to 2)

32 pages

Hardcover, 7.6 x 9.5 inches



LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

John Lennon was born in Liverpool, England and spent his early life choosing art and music instead of schoolwork. Together with Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr he formed a band called The Beatles, and they quickly became a worldwide sensation. After many years of fame and touring, John left the band and focused on promoting peace with his wife, Yoko Ono. John Lennon is remembered for his love of music, but also for how he was always dreaming of a better world and inspiring others to do the same.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS IN THIS UNIT

1. How did Mindy become interested in comedy?
2. As a child, what did Mindy dream of doing?
3. What were some of the firsts that Mindy did in show business?
4. Who are the important people in Mindy's life?
5. Why is Mindy an inspiring dreamer and role model?

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Even as a child, John dreamt of peace on Earth (p. 4). Ask students to share a dream they have for themselves or the world. What will they do to help make their dream come true?
2. When John met Paul McCartney, they bonded over a love of music and became best friends. John liked rock'n'roll and Paul liked pop, but they were still able to work together to make beautiful music (p. 7). Ask the students to share a story about a friend or family member who they are close to and how they are alike and how they are different. How does being alike strengthen the relationship, and how does being different challenge the relationship?
3. The Beatles performed at concerts with huge audiences, and John was really excited to hear so many people singing along to his music (p. 11). However, the fans screamed so loudly that he couldn't hear anyone singing, including himself! Ask the students if they have ever been disappointed like John was. What

was it they were hoping would happen in the situation? What happened instead?

4. John was very interested in learning about different cultures. Have the students share about a cultural or family tradition in their lives. Allow time for other students to ask questions about what their classmates are sharing. Remind them that John believed in respect and understanding for everyone, and that learning about cultures other than our own is one step in doing that.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. Provide students with a variety of materials, such as boxes, containers, and arts and crafts items. Allow them to create their own instruments from these materials, using pictures from the book to support their planning and creating (p. 5, 8). Have them share their creations with the class and lead a discussion on similarities and differences between the instruments created.

2. Be the Band Day: The Beatles were nicknamed, "The Fab Four." Once students have created their instruments, place them in groups of four to create their own bands and have them work together to play music on their instruments. Depending on the age of your students, you could have them choose a band name and design a logo for their group.

3. One of The Beatles' most famous songs is named "Yellow Submarine." Show the students a picture of the Beatles' yellow submarine (or play the video) and have students design their own bright, colorful submarines. If time allows, they can create an underwater scene to go along with their submarine. Play the song for the students while they work for an extra Beatles touch.

4. One Word Challenge: When John was feeling sad, he met an artist named Yoko who gave him a card with the word "Breathe" on it, and that made him feel better (p. 13). Challenge the students to think of one word that can help them when they're going through something difficult. Brainstorm a list of words as a class and then have students choose one, write it on a paper, and decorate it. This paper can be kept at school or home for students to look at it when they need inspiration.

5. Beatles Battle: Choose two famous Beatles songs from their enormous catalog. Explain to the students that you are going to play both songs and they will need to vote on which one they like better. After listening, have the students show their vote by moving to one side of the classroom if they like the first song or the other side of the classroom if they like the second song. Choose a few volunteers to explain why they voted the way they did. As an extension, do this activity multiple times over multiple days and keep track of the winners, similar to tournament brackets. Which Beatles song will come out at the top according to your students?

