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Activity Guide

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Mitchell is Moving

ABOUT THE STORY

Mitchell the dinosaur is tired of his everyday life, so he decides to move. His next-door neighbor and best friend, Margo, tries to talk him out of it, but Mitchell is determined. He travels for two weeks, builds a new house — and discovers that something is missing in his new life. Luckily for him, Margo has the perfect solution.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Marjorie Sharmat began writing as a child, when she pretended to be a detective and published her findings in her own newspaper. Her series of Nate the Great books reflects her love of mystery, and along with her other easy reader books and children's novels, have given her a devoted following of readers over the last thirty years.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATORS

Ariane Dewey and Jose Aruego have worked together on many children's books, including the picture book *The Chick and the Duckling* and the easy reader *Sea Frog, City Frog*. Jose Aruego has also written several children's books, and Ms. Dewey has illustrated his books, including *A Crocodile's Tale*, and her own, including *Dorin and the Dragon*. Both artists/writers live in New York City.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have ever moved. Have them share stories describing what was good and what was bad about moving. Explain that in this story, Mitchell the dinosaur wants to move. He thinks there is nothing bad about moving.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "Where does Mitchell want to move?"
- "Why is Mitchell moving?"
- "How does Margo react to Mitchell's plans?"
- "What is missing from Mitchell's new home?"
- "How does Mitchell feel when Margo moves in?" (Draw conclusions)
- "What kind of friend is Margo? Explain." (Make judgements)

Vocabulary

Copy this puzzle and have the children find and circle each of the listed vocabulary words in it. Words can run right-to-left, up-to-down, or diagonally. Then encourage children to use each word in a sentence.

gigantic foil slimy cement ceiling Laundromat

a ceiling
qrcmapsi
lbfmuoig
cembra
xsoadmin
atlfrnct
dotiodoi
urlamifc
gbonaylz
acretio b

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Language Arts: Margo's Reply

Ask the children to imagine that Margo is angry when she gets Mitchell's post card inviting her to visit. Have them write a reply that Margo might make, explaining why she won't come.

Science: Real Dinosaurs

Margo and Mitchell are dinosaurs, probably sauropods. Have children choose a sauropod to learn about, such as the brachiosaurus, the apatosaurus, or the ultrasaurus. Children can report on what they learn to the rest of the group.

Language Arts: The Prefix un-

When Margo begs Mitchell to stay, Mitchell uses several words that start with the prefix un-. Explain that un- means not. Have the children match each of the definitions with one of the words that Mitchell uses. Then have each child think of another unword.

unclip take off a sticky mass
untie remove a sticky strip
untape loosen ropes
unloop take off a band
unglue remove a fastener

Math: How Far did Mitchell Move?

Because dinosaurs were so big, they moved very slowly. Have the children determine how far away Mitchell moved, if he went this far each day:

Day 1: 3 miles Day 2: 2 miles
Day 3: 2 miles Day 4: 2 miles
Day 5: 3 miles Day 6: 0 miles (he was too tired)
Day 7: 4 miles Day 8: 2 miles
Day 9: 2 miles Day 10: 3 miles
Day 11: 2 miles Day 12: 3 miles
Day 13: 2 miles Day 14: 1 mile