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# Activity Guide

800-788-1121

## Jamberry

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### ABOUT THE STORY

A rumbling, rambling, and rhyming bear serves as tour guide to a small boy on a wondrous excursion through a fascinating world of berries of every description.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

A prolific author and illustrator, Bruce Degen has had a love for berries ever since he picked them as a boy. He continues the pastime today with his wife and two sons.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask the group what kind of berries they can name. Write their responses on the chalkboard. Then tell them that in this story, they will hear about even more berries - - and some of them aren't even real!

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### **Comprehension/Thinking Skills**

- “What type of board did the bear and boat ride over the waterfall?”
- “What kind of berry were the ponies and lambs carrying?”
- “Where did the train take the bear and the boy?”
- “What happened after the boy and bear went over the dam?”  
(Identify Sequence of Events)
- “How do the boy and bear feel about berries?” (Make Inferences)

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### **Language Arts: Jam for Lunch**

Have the children write recipes for sandwiches using their favorite jam. Encourage them to list all the ingredients for their recipes and to number each step in time order. Collect the recipes and make them into a class Jam Sandwich book.

#### **Science: Real Berries, Fake Berries**

Children can work in groups to find out which of the berries in the story are real and which are made up. They can look up berries in a dictionary, encyclopedia, or reference book. Encourage groups to compare answers.

#### **Health: Sweet, Sour, Salty, Bitter**

Explain to children that all foods have one or more of these tastes: sweet, sour, salty, or bitter. Provide a selection of fresh or canned berries for children to taste. Have a list of berries handy, and ask children to write whether each berry tasted sweet, sour, salty, or bitter. Write their responses on the list.

#### **Science: Berries, Berries, Everywhere**

Point out that there are many kinds of berries that were not mentioned in the book. Have children work in small groups to find out about one new kind of berry. Provide reference books for them to use. Each group can report on where their berry is found, what it looks like, and whether it is edible.

### INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

#### **The Real Bear**

Children might enjoy finding out about real bears and reporting on one bear fact to the rest of the group. You can send them to this Website: <http://www.nature-net.com/bears/>.

Children might also enjoy visiting the Smuckers Corporation's Home Page, where they can find out about different kinds of jams and jellies, take a jelly quiz, and find recipes using jams and jellies. The site is at <http://www.smucker.com>.