

SCIENCE, MATH, SOCIAL STUDIES & LANGUAGE TOPICS PERTAINING TO BUDDY BOOBY'S BIRTHMARK

Guess/research why booby birds have red feet. (It's actually due to a vascular condition, much like a human's port-wine-stain!)

What does "endangered" mean? Choose a character in the book and report on it. Use the internet to find and print photographs of the actual animals featured in the book. Find out if the chosen species is endangered, or discuss the facts in the back of the book.

Take a survey. Find out what percentage or fraction of the class (or school) have birthmarks somewhere on their bodies (brown patches, red marks, etc.). You may be surprised at how many! Graph or chart the results.

Five of the book's characters are named after actual islands in the Galapagos. Can you guess which ones? (Cristobal, Isabela, Cruz, Maria, Fernandina). Choose one of the five islands and see what you can discover about it through on-line research.

Why is the chain of islands named Galapagos? The word "Galapagos" means "tortoise". (Discuss the largest and oldest living tortoise species found only on this island!) Why do these animals live so long? (no enemies, shell/protection, etc).

Where are the Galapagos Islands located? Find them on a map.

Study the culture of Ecuador and the inhabitants of the islands. What language do they speak? Can you translate some of the book's words into Spanish? (Ex. 'friend' - amigo).

What are birthmarks? Discussion/Lesson could include general information about blood and vessels under the surface of the skin.

Study the many FASCINATING plant and animal species found ONLY on the Galapagos Islands! How did they get to the islands? How have they adapted and evolved to live on an island surrounded by salt water? (Touch on the marine iguana's ability to desalinate water through glands in it's head, and the adaptation of finch's to eat cactus, etc.)

How are volcanic islands, such as the Galapagos formed? Discuss lava in a molten state and lava hardened. Show samples of hardened lava rock.

SUGGESTED JOURNAL WRITING ACTIVITY **OR DISCUSSION GROUP TOPICS**

Think of a way you are different from others. Do you like it? Why or why not? Would you change it if you could? Do you think changing it would make you a 'better' person or friend?

If you were Buddy, what would you have wished for, and why?

Share a hurtful experience you have had. Include the outcome. If not satisfactory, how could it have been handled more successfully?

What could Cristobal, Fernandina, Maria, or Cruz have done differently when Isabel first introduced them to Buddy? Role play the scene from the story using your changes.

Which character is your favorite? Why?

Can you think of a time when you may have said something hurtful to someone else without thinking first? What happened? Did you learn anything from the experience?

Discuss different 'prejudices' towards others (race, weight, social class, appearance, nationality, speech, etc.) Why do you think people are prejudice? Do you think prejudice is harmful to anyone? If so, to whom and why? What are some ways to change prejudice?

Choose one of the above questions and use it to conduct an interview with an adult family member or older sibling. Write a full 'newspaper' article (for the school paper) OR summarize it into a one minute TV news segment. Pretend you're an "Anchor" on a TV program and 'report' your 'news' in front of the classroom.

International Buddy Booby's Birthmark Read-Along **PARTY IDEAS!**

Make invitations and allow each child to 'invite' a family member or a VIP (community leader, mayor, legislator, etc.) to attend the event.

Study the food, fruit, etc. of Ecuador. Have each child bring in a native food for the Read-Along party.

Make a special cake or cupcakes to celebrate the Read-Along Day.

Decorate the classroom with coloring pages, balloons, streamers, etc.

Have each child color one extra bookmark, laminate it, and donate them all to a local hospital children's ward or nursing home. Include a 'gently used' book if there's a need.

Invite the local media (newspaper, radio & television). Make sure they know your school is representing the state as part of an International assembly--and if there are any VIPs attending.

Invite a child or adult with a birthmark to read the book to the class. Invite a local dermatologist/physician to conduct the reading. Get the upper grades (6th, 7th & 8th) involved, by asking older students to read to the younger children. Ask the parents or teachers to each read as a different character in the book!

Show a movie about the Galapagos Islands, or play music from Ecuador.

Log on to the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation site at www.birthmark.org for additional ways your school/community can become involved in fundraising for the Day of Awareness Campaign.

Take pictures of each child. Compile a class book, giving each student their own page. Include the picture and have them write a paragraph about what they learned/loved on Read-Along Day.

Email or write and tell us how YOU celebrated your day! What did you learn?

What did you enjoy? What would you like to see us do next year?

Our address: PO Box 211, Ruby NY 12475 -or- Email us: info@buddyboobysbirthmark.com