



Three Billy Goats Gruff

The classic folk tale, *Three Billy Goats Gruff*, provides many opportunities for fun learning activities across the curriculum.

Science

Growing Grass

Grass is easy and fast to grow. Provide grass seed, potting soil, and disposable cups. Children should fill the cups about halfway with soil, scatter grass seeds on top, and cover them lightly with more soil. Keep the soil moist but not too wet. As their grass grows, children will enjoy watering it and keeping it trimmed with scissors.

Getting to Know Goats

Introduce children to the facts about goats with simple nonfiction books. Talk with children about where goats usually live, what they like to eat, the sounds they make, and their characteristics such as horns and hooves. Discuss how the Billy Goats Gruff are alike and different from real goats.

Language Arts

Position Words

Use the bridge and the troll puppets to focus on position words. Direct a child to place the troll puppet *under*, *over*, *behind*, *next to*, *in front of*, *near*, (and so on) in relation to the bridge puppet.

“G” is for Goat

Encourage each child to draw a picture of something that begins with the sound of the letter *G*. Label each picture. Gather children’s illustrations into a class book about the letter *G*.

Variation: Have half the children draw pictures of objects that begin with the sound of the letter *G*. Have the other half draw anything they wish. Hold up the pictures one at a time. Work with children to sort the pictures into two piles: things that begin with the sound of the letter *G* and things that do not.

Math

Building Bridges

Provide blocks, boxes, and other construction toys for children to build their own bridges. Encourage math vocabulary as children describe, measure, compare, and estimate during the construction activity.

Three’s the Charm

Focus on the number three. Read other stories, such as *Three Little Pigs* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, or recite a rhyme such as *Three Little Kittens*. Have each child draw a picture of three of the same thing. Label each drawing: 3 chairs, 3 bears, 3 flowers, etc. Gather the illustrations into a class book about the number three.

Size Wise

Have children sort objects or pictures of objects by size: small, medium, and large.

Using the Make-Your-Own Puppets Reproducible

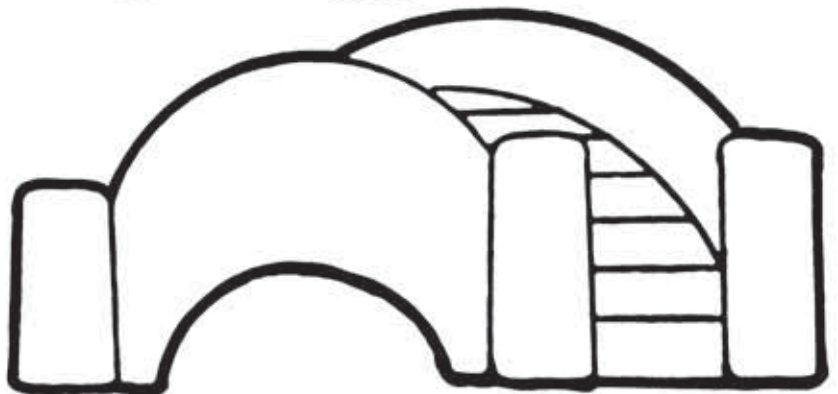
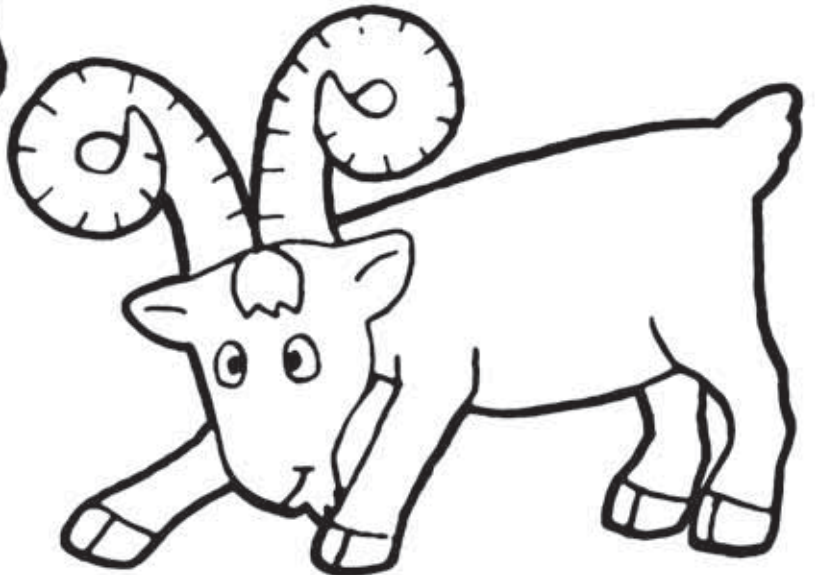
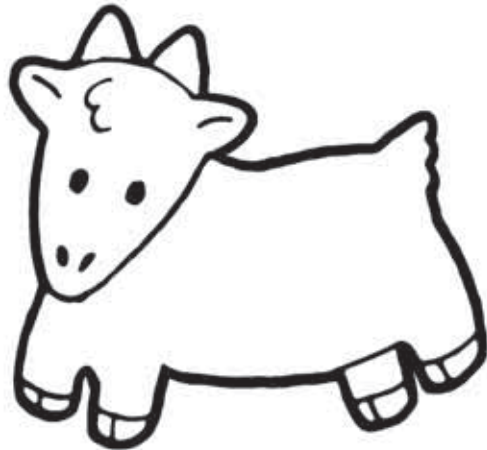
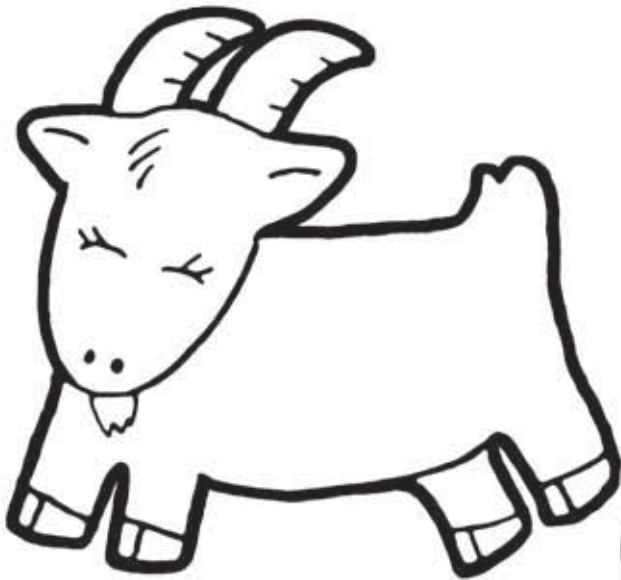
Send the FingerTale puppet fun home with your students! Just reproduce the included story and puppets for each child. It’s a great way for children to continue building language arts skills, from vocabulary development to listening

MAKE-YOUR-OWN FINGERTALE PUPPETS

Three Billy Goats Gruff

You and your child can make your own puppets and then use them to retell the familiar story your child enjoyed at school. Here's how:

1. Provide crayons or markers for your child to color the puppets.
2. Help your child cut the puppets out along the outside edge, or cut them out yourself.
3. **To make "stick puppets":**
Glue or tape the puppets to craft sticks or drinking straws.
4. **To make "finger puppets":**
Trace the outline of each of the puppets onto a second piece of paper. Cut the outline out and staple it to the back of the puppet along the edges, leaving the bottom open to allow room for your finger.





Three Billy Goats Gruff

Once upon a time, there were three billy goats named “Gruff.” All three—Little Billy Goat Gruff, Middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff, and Great Big Billy Goat Gruff—liked to eat grass all day long.

One day Great Big Billy Goat Gruff saw some rich, emerald-green grass across a wide, fast-flowing stream. “Mmmmm, look at the long green grass on the hill across the stream,” he said. The other two lifted their heads and sniffed the air. The sweet smell of the grass made their mouths water.

“But a mean troll lives under the bridge that crosses the stream. He will eat us if we dare to cross his bridge,” said Middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff.

Little Billy Goat Gruff, hungry and foolish, decided to try to cross the bridge anyway. *Trip, trap, trip, trap*, over the bridge he clomped. When he was halfway across, up jumped the nasty troll. “Who’s that crossing my bridge?” roared the troll.

“It’s only me, the littlest Billy Goat Gruff,” whimpered Little Billy Goat Gruff. “Please don’t eat me. My brother is much bigger than I am. He will make a tastier meal for you.”

The troll thought about what Little Billy Goat Gruff had said and replied, “Be off with you then.”

A few minutes later, Middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff began to cross the bridge. *Trip, trap, trip, trap*, over the bridge he clomped. When he was halfway across, up jumped the nasty troll. “Who’s that crossing my bridge?” roared the troll.

“It’s me, Middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff. I wish to cross the bridge to get to the rich green grass.”

“I’m going to gobble you up,” bellowed the troll.

But Middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff pleaded with the troll to let him pass. “Wait for my brother, Great Big Billy Goat Gruff. He will make a large and satisfying meal for you.”

The troll decided to let Middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff pass and to wait for the goat’s big brother. “Be off with you then,” he shouted.

A few minutes later, Great Big Billy Goat Gruff began to cross the bridge. *Trip, trap, trip, trap*, over the bridge he clomped on his big heavy hooves. When he was halfway across the bridge, up jumped the wicked troll. “Who’s that crossing my bridge?” demanded the troll.

“It’s me, Great Big Billy Goat Gruff. I am crossing the bridge to join my brothers and eat the sweet green grass on the hill.”

“Your brothers can eat their fill of grass, but I am going to eat you up!” roared the troll.

“Oh no you’re not!” thundered the biggest Billy Goat Gruff. He lowered his sharp horns and charged at the troll, knocking him high into the air. The troll came down into the stream with a mighty splash. The swift water quickly carried him far, far away never to be seen again.

From that day on, the three billy goats Gruff crossed the bridge whenever they wished to munch the sweet green grass.

