

Tino the Tortoise: Adventures in the Grand Canyon

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Illustrated by Erik Brooks

Tino the Tortoise and his friend, Rudi the long-eared jerboa take readers on an adventure rich in the wonders of the Grand Canyon. Young readers are introduced to new and unusual plants and animals, as well as some of the exciting activities that can be experienced at Grand Canyon National Park.

The Grand Canyon is one of the Natural Wonders of the World. The canyon is, on average, one mile deep, 10 miles wide, and is 277 miles long. The Colorado River has been carving the steep canyon walls over millions of years.

READING/WRITING/LANGUAGE ARTS

Read *Tino the Tortoise: Adventures in the Grand Canyon* and answer the following questions:

1. Tino and Rudi are searching for a certain type of squirrel throughout their journey. What kind of squirrel are they looking for? What makes that squirrel unique? How is that squirrel the same as or different from squirrels you've seen? (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1)
2. Some books tell stories, while other books give information. How does this story do a little of both?
3. How do the pictures help tell Tino's story? Are there any facts that are easier to understand because you can see them drawn on the page? (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7)
4. How would you describe Rudi the long-eared jerboa's personality? How about Tino the tortoise? Are they friendly? Nervous? Brave? What parts of the story make you think that about them? (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3)
5. The "Author's Note" contains interesting facts and ideas that go beyond what is written in the rest of the story. What's one fact you learned from the Author's Note at the back of the book? (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.8)

Writing:

1. In this story, Tino and Rudi go on an adventure. Write a story about an adventure you might go on with a friend. Where would you go? What would you see? What would you find along the way? (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.3)
2. Tino and Rudi share a recipe for pine seeds with their new friend. Choose a recipe, and write a story to go with it. How was the recipe invented? How was it shared? What history does it have? (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.3)



Vocabulary:

Teacher note: Some of these terms may be above grade level for your group. Pre-teaching vocabulary in context should help students with comprehension. These terms generally fall under Tiers II and III for the Common Core State Standards.

binoculars
soaring
swirling
shuttle

encouraging
tasseled
accomplished
plateau

Further conceptual vocabulary from the "Author's Note" after the story (many of these words may be incorporated into science study):

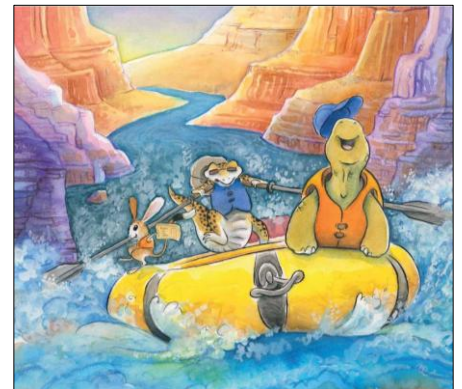
ecosystem
symbiotic
flourish
charismatic

geological
diversity
conservation
stewards

1. Draw a simple picture that will help you remember the meaning of each word. Share your pictures with a classmate to see if you can each guess your friend's words by looking at the drawings.
2. *Tino the Tortoise: Adventures in the Grand Canyon* Word Find: Find these words from *Tino the Tortoise: Adventures in the Grand Canyon*. They are hidden forward, up, and down.

z r w s s f l o u r i s h s u
s t s w i r l i n g v e w c h
q e v m i h p d z y o g e z w
c y l t a s s e l e d n v c k
h o p p d i v e r s i t y i l
a p e n c o u r a g i n g n n
r l a c c o m p l i s h e d g
i a p y z j k t j t x p k r c
s t a z e c o s y s t e m n g
m e l j r g x a h y b u o l d
a a n e y o y b s o a r i n g
t u r c g k o k i p q c z c b
i n s g f b i n o c u l a r s
c g e o l o g i c a l m b e o
s y m b i o t i c w w d a j j

accomplished
binoculars
charismatic
diversity
ecosystem
encouraging
flourish
geological
plateau
soaring
swirling
symbiotic
tasseled



3. Want a more advanced word find? This one has the words up, down, diagonally, and even backwards! Good luck!

m m e t s y s o c e a y d d q
 b a g s y t i s r e v i d b a
 i a e o t r z h v e y e d g c
 n e o a e r y g t m h u n h k
 o l l r r s l f a s u o a a b
 c t o i w o d w i k i r t y c
 u t g n d a t l f t i a k g i
 l u i g q j p z a s s p s g t
 a h c k l m d v m s l m b u o
 r s a q o g r a e a t b k t i
 s z l c u e t l t f z w k q b
 j o c o s i e e s t e y c u m
 m a s n c d a c y k v x h c y
 i p o t j u v g n i l r i w s
 w c u y g n i g a r u o c n e

accomplished
 binoculars
 charismatic
 conservation
 diversity
 ecosystem
 encouraging
 geological
 plateau
 shuttle
 soaring
 swirling
 symbiotic
 tasseled



The real Tino and Rudi!

Science/Natural History/Geography

(See also the questions in the reading and writing sections, as well as vocabulary terms.)

1. This book includes places and wildlife that exist in real life. Choose three of the terms below and research the place, plant, or animal. Share your research with your classmates. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.7)

Kaibab squirrels
 ponderosa pine
 Mather Point
 Plateau
 Bright Angel Trail
 big horn sheep
 Phantom Ranch

roadrunner
 sandstone
 Colorado River
 Diamond Creek
 Mojave Desert
 pine seed (pine nuts)

2. Kaibab squirrels only live in one small spot in the world, right on the rim of the Grand Canyon. Research another animal that is found only in one place. How is that animal different from other animals like it that are found around the world? (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.7)
3. In the “Author’s Note” at the end of the story, the writer tells us about the **symbiotic relationship** between the Kaibab squirrels and the ponderosa pine trees. What does “symbiotic relationship” mean? What other examples of symbiotic relationships can you find in nature?

4. *The delicately balanced ecosystem of the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park and the Kaibab National Forest is maintained under the watchful eyes and dedication of the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, conservation organizations, and volunteers.*

How does the National Park Service (and other caretakers) help the plants and animals that live in protected places like the Grand Canyon? (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.8; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.7)

Math

Kindergarten: (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.CC.B.5)

Penny the squirrel collected these pine seeds for dinner.
How many pine seeds did she collect?



Grade 1: (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.1.OA.A.1)

Tino and Rudi go hunting for pine seeds. Rudy gathers 7 seeds. Rudi gathers 5 seeds, and Penny has 6 saved from breakfast. How many seeds do they have all together for their dinner? Draw a picture to help you. Show your work.

Intermediate: (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.2.OA.A.1)

Tino and Rudi went white-water rafting in the Colorado River. On the first day, they floated 19 miles. On the second day, they floated 23 miles. (They were really zipping through the rapids that day!) How many miles did they travel in those two days?

Advanced: (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.3.OA.A.1)

Tino and Rudi rode mules to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. On the way down, Rudi (who was nervous and excited at the same time) counted the legs of all of the mules. Rudi counted 36 mule legs. How many mules were in the group?



About the author:

Carolyn Ahern is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with degrees in nursing and psychology. She lives in Nevada with her husband, Don, and family. An advocate of early childhood literacy, Carolyn hopes to nurture children's minds with an entertaining and educational combination of fiction and facts, as they explore each new travel destination with their friend Tino the Tortoise. Carolyn enjoys hiking, traveling and exploring the great outdoors. She adores her pet tortoise, Tino, and loves taking walks with her shih tzu, Penny. www.TinotheTortoise.com

About the illustrator:

Erik Brooks is the author and illustrator of many books for children, including the Washington State Book Award winner, *Polar Opposites*, and the CBC/IRA Children's Choices Award winner, *The Practically Perfect Pajamas*. His most recent illustrated book, *Sea Star Wishes*, was selected as the July 2013 "Book of the Month" by US Children's Poet Laureate, Kenn Nesbitt. From his home in Winthrop, Washington, Erik also writes and draws *Harts Pass*, a weekly comic strip for the *Methow Valley News*, visits schools and libraries around the country, and plays in the woods like a wolverine! erikbrooks.blogspot.com

