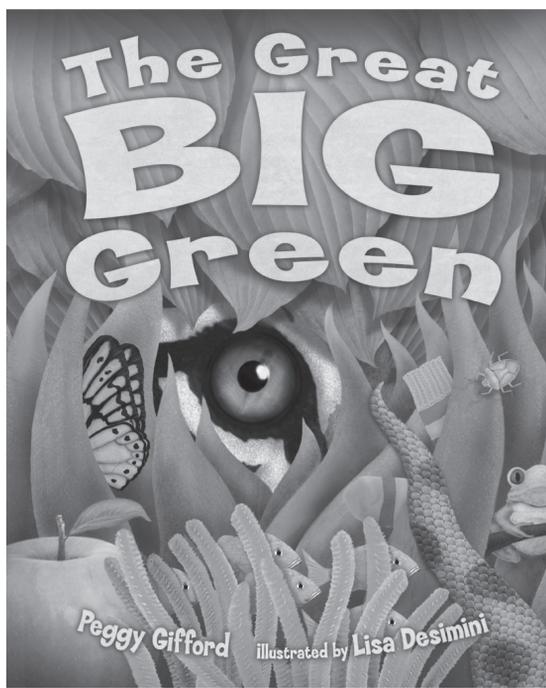


The Great **BIG** Green



Peggy Gifford

illustrated by **Lisa Desimini**



An Educator's Guide to THE GREAT BIG GREEN

Written by Peggy Gifford • illustrated by Lisa Desimini

In **THE GREAT BIG GREEN**, author Peggy Gifford and illustrator Lisa Desimini take kids on a wild rhyming adventure to find the biggest green thing of all. Students will enjoy looking for clues as they try to solve the mystery of what the big green thing could be. This guide is designed to enhance students' reading of the book and to suggest some activities for further exploration. Connections to the Common Core State Standards are noted throughout. For the complete Common Core State Standards, visit corestandards.org/the-standards.



978-1-62091-629-2 • Grades PreK and up
Ages 4 and up • \$15.95 • CCSS: Literary Text: Stories

Discussion Questions and Research

Look at the cover of the book. How many different green things can you find?
(RL K.5)

What are some ways the author describes the color green?
(RL K.7)

What is an anaconda? What is an iguana? What is an electric eel?
(RL K.4)

"I mean this thing has got all things green." What do you think the author is talking about?
(RL K.1)

When you listen to the story, do you hear any rhyming words? Name some rhyming pairs.
(RF K.2a)

On the spread with the green door, there is a dinosaur. What did the illustrator use to make the dinosaur?
(RL K.1)

What is a tornado? Why is it on the same page as a red traffic light and the words "dark and dangerous"?
(RL K.4)

The illustrator scanned a real tiger's-eye stone to create the tiger's eyes in the story. What other illustrations in the book look like they are made of something "real"?
(RL K.5)

Look at the page where one of the children is painting a picture. Can you name all the different fruits and vegetables?
(RL K.1)

On one page, a girl is doing a handstand. Why do you suppose her toes are green?
(RL K.1)

What is a gecko? What is a praying mantis? How do "green moths" feel "in the green dark"?
(RL K.4)

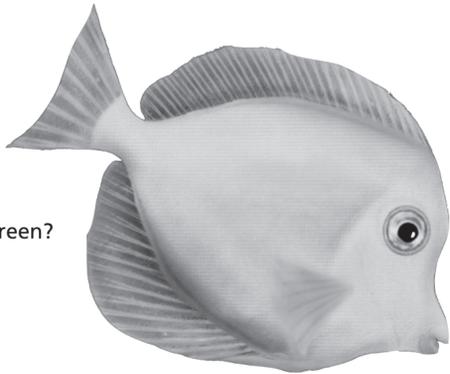
Some of the green things in the book are not plants or animals. They are made by humans. Can you find some things in the book that are manufactured?
(RL K.1)

"Thick green vines climbing high green trees"—what else can you find in the trees on this page?
(RL K.1)

On one spread, the words look like mountains. What do the illustrations look like? How does the illustrator help the author's words come to life?
(RL K.7)

What is the "the great big green"? Did you figure it out before you got to the page where the author shows it hanging "like an ornament in the sky"?
(RL K.1)

What is the blue on "the great big green"?
(RL K.1)



Extra Credit

The Great Big Green is illustrated using mixed-media collages. Lisa Desimini scanned items such as pipe cleaners and sandpaper to create the unique pictures in the story. Have students make their own collages using magazine clippings to create larger pictures. If scanners are available, students can select unusual three-dimensional items to scan and then print for their collages.

Throughout the book, the color green appears in many different variations. What two colors mix to make the color green? Think about all the different shades of green the illustrator used in the book, from tennis-ball green to turtle green. Look around the classroom—or around the playground—and find different greens. Experiment with paint to make different shades of green.

Challenge your students to the green game. Have each child name something green (a watermelon, a car, a frog) without repeating what another student has already named.

On the last pages of the book, the author explains that the Earth is green "except where it's blue." Have students look at a physical map of the world. What other colors can be found on a globe? For example, what color is Greenland? Why?

Imagine what it would be like to see the Earth from space. What are some things on the Earth that can be seen from space (oceans, land masses)? What are some things that can't be seen (buildings, people)? Check out Google Maps. Can students find their school? What colors do they see when they click on the "Earth" view?

Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22. In honor of Earth Day, use cardboard egg cartons, potting soil, and a quick-growing seed (like string beans) to show students how easy planting something green can be. Once the weather is warm enough for planting outside, the plant can be placed directly into the garden or a larger pot. For more information, visit <http://thesproutingseed.com/starting-seeds-in-egg-cartons/>. Ask your students if they know what a plant needs in order to stay green.

Making crafts from recycled materials is a very green thing to do. Visit <http://www.education.com/activity/preschool/recycled-crafts/> for lots of nifty ways to reuse everyday materials to make something beautiful.

Reading List

Picture Book Poems About Nature

All the World by Liz Garton Scanlon, illustrated by Marla Frazee

Green by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

In the Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming

Rain Play by Cynthia Cotten, illustrated by Javaka Steptoe

Waiting for Wings by Lois Ehlert

Picture Books About Taking Care of the Earth

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney

The Wartville Wizard by Don Madden

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Going Green

Ask students what they can do to help keep the Earth green. Talk about the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. What do these words mean?
(RI K.4)

From choosing reusable water bottles for their lunch boxes to recycling used paper, work with students to create a list of environmentally friendly tips for their classroom.
(SL K.1)

Reusing is a very green thing to do. What are some things people can reuse?
(SL K.4)