

LITTLE GRUNT AND THE BIG EGG

K-3

**Written and Illustrated by
Tomie dePaola**

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Story Summary

Little Grunt has been sent out by his mother to gather eggs for a special Sunday brunch. He returns home with the biggest egg the Grunt Tribe has ever seen. They put the egg by the hearth and go to bed, dreaming of a special meal to share with the Ugga-Wugga Tribe. But that night, the egg breaks in half and the Grunts have a special surprise! Tomie dePaola knows that dinosaurs and people didn't live at the same time. He says, "That's why I call it a prehistoric fairy tale!"

Objectives

1. The children will develop an interest in discovering more about dinosaurs and prehistoric life.
2. The children will develop an understanding of volcanic activity.
3. The children will develop an understanding of the characteristics of appropriate household pets.

Before viewing the video

Tell the children that they will be viewing a video that is introduced by the author, Tomie dePaola. This is a story about people who lived many, many years ago, before anyone knew how to build houses. They lived in caves so that they could be sheltered from the heat, the cold and from bad weather. We know that dinosaurs roamed the earth before any people were alive, but this story is called a prehistoric fairy tale because we see people and dinosaurs living at the same time. Use your imagination to think about what life would be like if these great creatures we call dinosaurs roamed the earth with us! Think about the pets you have and the pets your friends have. What kinds of things do you and your family consider when you choose a pet? We will also see what happens when a volcano erupts. Ask the children to tell the class what they think a volcano is like.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. Why was Little Grunt asked to gather eggs?
2. When Little Grunt finally found the biggest egg he ever saw, what problem did he have to solve?
3. Why was the Grunt Tribe so happy when they saw the egg?
4. How did this egg surprise everyone in the morning?
5. Little Grunt and the dinosaur became great pals, but when did problems start? What were some of these problems?
6. How did Little Grunt and George, the dinosaur, feel when Chief Rockhead Grunt reached his decision?
7. Some time after George, the dinosaur, was gone, the Grunt Tribe had a big problem when the cave started to shake. What was happening?
8. George, the dinosaur, returned to help the tribe. What did he do?
9. After the Grunt Tribe was settled into their new cave, George, the dinosaur, had a big surprise for them. What was that surprise about?

Activities

1. Set up a display of books in the classroom that will enhance further investigation about prehistoric times, dinosaurs and volcanoes. Encourage independent reading with older students and use these books for story time with younger children.
2. Create a class bulletin board called "A Volcano Erupts." Have the children recreate the scene in Tomie de Paola's book where the volcano erupts and George saves the tribe.
3. Have the children select a story to write. "The Perfect Pet" would include the qualities of a pet they could realistically have. If they choose "If a Dinosaur Were My Pet," they would tell a fantasy about life with a dinosaur.
4. Have the children select a dinosaur to study in greater detail. Have them draw a picture of this dinosaur and tell about the characteristics and appearance as described in books.