



#10072

MAX'S CHOCOLATE CHICKEN

WESTON WOODS STUDIOS, 1991

Grade Level: Ps-2

5 mins.

DESCRIPTION

Whoever finds the most Easter eggs will get the chocolate chicken for a prize. Max and Ruby hunt for the eggs, but Max is easily distracted by other things he sees. Discouraged when Ruby finds several eggs, Max just takes the prize and eats it. But who replaces it? Animated version of the book by Rosemary Wells.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: History—Grades K-4—The History of Peoples of Many Cultures Around the World

- Standard: Understands selected attributes and historical developments of societies in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe
 - ♦ Benchmark: Knows the holidays and ceremonies of different societies (e.g., Christmas celebrations in Scandinavia, Germany, or England; Cinco de Mayo; the Chinese New Year; the Japanese tea ceremony; harvest and spring festivals) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1.)

Subject Area: Behavioral Studies

- Standard: Understands conflict, cooperation, and interdependence among individuals, groups, and institutions
 - ♦ Benchmark: Knows that disagreements are common, even between family members or friends (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2.)

Subject Area: Language Arts—Reading

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
 - ♦ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, legends, fables, myths, poems, nursery rhymes, picture books, predictable books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 3.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To explore Easter holiday traditions.
2. To illustrate sibling rivalry.
3. To promote the reading of children's literature.

VOCABULARY

1. acorns
2. ants
3. birdbath
4. chocolate chicken
5. egg hunt
6. find/found
7. hid
8. most
9. mud puddle
10. pancakes
11. popped out
12. "pull yourself together"
13. spoon

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Read the book *Max's Chocolate Chicken* by Rosemary Wells. Review Ruby's bossy behavior and Max's reaction to it. Discuss experiences with siblings.
2. Discuss Easter holiday traditions, including egg hunts. For those who have not participated in egg hunts, discuss other kinds of scavenger hunts.
 - a. How did you feel when you discovered the eggs (objects) hidden here and there?
 - b. How did you know when to stop looking?
 - c. What did you do with the eggs (objects) that you found?

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. What did Max discover in the birdbath? How did the chocolate chicken get there? What holiday were Ruby and Max celebrating?
2. Why do you think it was a chocolate chicken and not a chocolate bunny?
3. What did Ruby say they must do before eating the chocolate chicken? Who did she say will get the chocolate chicken? Did Ruby know Max would have trouble hunting eggs?
4. Describe what Ruby and Max each found the first time they looked for eggs. What did they find the second time? What did Max do with the acorns?
5. What did Ruby mean when she said, "Max, pull yourself together"?
6. Describe what Max and Ruby each found when they went hunting for eggs together.
7. Discuss why Max had such a hard time hunting for eggs. Share similar experiences. How did Max probably feel? How do these experiences make you feel?
8. What did Max make with the things he found? What would you do with acorns, a spoon, and a mud puddle?
9. Why did Max take the chocolate chicken? Where did he go, and what did he do with it? How would you describe Max's behavior?
10. How did Ruby feel when she saw that the chocolate chicken was gone? What did she do?
11. What happened at the end of the video that surprised both Ruby and Max? What did Max say to Ruby? What did Max do to the second chocolate chicken?
12. Did Ruby know where the second chocolate chicken came from?

Applications and Activities

1. Dye hard-boiled eggs. Use with a variety of colors. Experiment by adding stars, stripes, polka-dots, and swirls.
2. Have an egg hunt using plastic or paper eggs. Discuss how it feels to be the person who finds a lot of eggs or the person that has trouble finding eggs.
3. Have an outdoor scavenger hunt. Look for specific-shaped objects, such as round things or rough things. Glue each kind of found object inside a separate circle on poster board.
4. Discuss sibling rivalry. Review the behavior of both Ruby and Max in the story. Identify character traits that influenced their behavior. Share similar experiences with siblings.
5. Working in small groups or with partners, play creatively with found objects like acorns, a spoon, and dirt (substitute clay). Come up with as many different creations as you can.
6. Investigate the history of common Easter traditions including egg hunts, chocolate bunnies, and the Easter bunny.
7. Review how Max ate the chocolate chicken. What part did he eat first? Second? Last? What parts of chocolate bunnies do you eat first, second, and last?
8. Read other books about Easter.
 - a. *The Easter Egg Farm* by Mary Jane Auch
 - b. *The Easter Egg Artists* by Adrienne Adams
 - c. *Happy Easter, Little Critter* by Mercer Mayer
 - d. *Owen's Marshmallow Chick* by Kevin Henkes
 - e. *The Easter Chick* by Geraldine Elschner
 - f. *Little Bunny's Easter Surprise* by Jeanne Modesitt
 - g. *The Bunny Who Found Easter* by Charlotte Zolotow
 - h. *Easter Bunnies (Holiday Symbols)* by Patrick Merrick



SUMMARY

Max's Chocolate Chicken is a charming story about Max, a curious little rabbit, who spies a chocolate chicken left by the Easter Bunny in the birdbath. Max's sister Ruby, who tends to be a bit bossy, tells Max that whoever finds the most eggs in the egg hunt is entitled to the chocolate chicken. As Max looks about for eggs, he becomes easily distracted by the mud puddles, acorns, and objects he finds on the ground. Meanwhile, Ruby diligently goes about her business of finding eggs.

When it becomes clear that Ruby will find more eggs than Max, Max runs to the birdbath, snatches the chocolate chicken, and begins feasting on its tail and wings. The story ends with Max popping out of his hiding place, only to discover to his amazement and Ruby's that the Easter Bunny has replaced the chocolate chicken in the birdbath.

CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [Max's Christmas #2312](#)
- [Noisy Nora #3276](#)
- [A Visit with Rosemary Wells #3312](#)

World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **THE WORLD OF ROSEMARY WELLS**

<http://www.rosemarywells.com>

Visit this Web site for biographical information on the author, a list of the author's books, and comments from the author about the importance of reading to children, including some related research. There are also coloring pages and activities for children.

- **EASTER LESSON PLANS**

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/Easter.htm>

This Web site has links to 20 different Easter-related lesson plans for various subjects, including math, reading, science, art, and more.

- **HAPPY EASTER**

<http://www.twingroves.district96.k12.il.us/Easter/Easter.html#anchor266213>

This Web site, sponsored by a school district, includes information about Easter and the Easter bunny, a list of egg art ideas, and links to candy and card Web sites.

- **GETTING ALONG WITH SIBLINGS**

<http://www.cedu.niu.edu/~shumow/iit/Getting%20Along%20With%20Siblings.pdf>

This five-page PDF document from the College of Education at Northern Illinois University is written for older children. It provides simple information on why siblings quarrel, problem-solving steps, why siblings are important, and more. It also provides links to several related Web sites, including some research sites.