

Teacher Guide for *ASK, The Skin You're In*

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Betty Lou Askin, a retired educator, who lives in Toronto Ontario, prepared this guide.

Prior to reading this magazine, ask the students to look at the cover and then at the Contents page. Ask them to predict what the images might suggest.

Scoops (pages 2-3)

Good For the Gorillas!

- How do you count gorillas in a vast area?

Oldest American Yet

- Why are scientists changing their ideas about the first North Americans?

Do the Dawn Dance

- Why are anoles different from other animals in the morning?
- Describe their actions.

Nestor's Dock (pages 4-5)

- Why was Nestor unique?
- How did he become a hero?
- Why is the title very suitable?

The Skin You're In (pages 6-13)

Questions/activities to help with the content of this article:

- Make a list of the jobs that your skin performs.
What Is Skin?
 - Describe the role of the epidermis, the dermis and the subcutaneous layer.A Skin for Everyone
 - What is the relationship between the skin and the environment?
 - What is the difference between cold blooded and warm blooded? Provide examples of each.
 - Write a paragraph explaining the purpose of sweat glands. Use examples of animals to help support your comments.
 - How do ocean dwellers keep warm?Sensitive Skin
 - Where are your nerve endings located in your body? Where are most located?
 - Why are animals more sensitive to touch?
 - What kind of taste buds do you have?
 - Why are we ticklish?Special Skins for Special Jobs
 - Describe some modern day fabrics and how they work.

Hand Gogh (pages 14-16)

- Who is Guido Daniele?
- Write a paragraph to describe how Guido Daniele creates a "manimal".
- If possible, let the students use water-soluble paint to create their own manimal. If this is not feasible, a similar exercise could be done on paper.

Only Skin Deep: The Story of Skin Color Pages 17-20)

Questions to consider:

- What is pigment?
- What is melanin? What are the two types of melanin?
- Explain what decides the shade of our skin color?
- Why did the first humans have a darker skin?
- How do bad UV rays affect the skin?
- Explain why people eventually developed lighter skin tones.
- Tell why some UV rays are necessary for humans.

Louis Braille (pages 21-25)

Ideas for discussion:

- Two hundred years ago, what did many people think about those who had no sight?
- Why was Haüy a special person?
- What happened to young Louis Braille?
- How did other members of the community help Louis?
- Why was Captain Barbier an important inventor?
- Explain how Louis helped "the blind lead the blind".
- Why could we call Louis Braille "an unsung hero" when he was alive?

The Clock Inside You (pages 26-27)

- What are biological clocks?
- There are many beings shown on these pages with life expectancies. Think about those with the longest lifetime. Use your imagination and make some speculations as to why they may have long lives.

Jimmy the Bug (page 32)

- Using your own words describe what happens to the wastewater in your home.

Marvin and Friends

- How are hippos adapted to their environment?
- Tell how raccoons survive their environment.
- Why did Marvin faint?