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# Learning About Giants



## Giant Story Card #1

### Giants - Real and Make-Believe

Stories about giants were invented by people who lived hundreds of years ago. At one time people needed to be strong to stay alive. People who were big and strong were considered important people. They protected their friends and their friends bragged to others.

Stories about big people grew bigger and bigger. Eventually the people in the stories became "giants". Giants were often used to explain things that people couldn't understand. People would say that a giant was stomping his feet during an earthquake. The sound of thunder was a giant laughing. Fog or mist was caused by a giant smoking his pipe.

Storytellers claimed that valleys were formed by giants walking around in soft earth. Lakes were made from giant footprints that filled up with water. Small hills and mounds of earth were said to be giants' graves. Large bones were considered to be giants' bones as dinosaurs were not known about then.

In many stories giants have been depicted as large, ugly, clumsy-looking men. In some stories the giants are good, kind, friendly and happy while in others they are mean, cruel, man-eating and stupid.

# Learning About Giants

Giants have been illustrated with long arms that reach below their knees. Their hands are usually very large and good for throwing stones. Giants trudge along with a slouch and are often pot-bellied from eating too much. They are often hairy to keep them warm during the winter.

According to many tales, giants have a keen sense of smell. They often go about sniffing the air for the smell of human beings saying "Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum! I smell the blood of an Englishman!". Some giants have been known to eat people.

Most giants are fictitious and have been made up by people, however there are a few real ones. Real giants were - and - are very tall people.

The Bible tells about tall giants. Goliath was the giant killed by a stone by David the shepherd boy. King Og was another giant found in the Bible. His bed was more than thirteen feet long and six feet wide.

Today there are some exceptionally tall people who live in Africa. They are called the "watusi" and they are about seven feet tall.

Sometimes the pituitary gland in a person's body works too hard and the person will grow exceptionally tall. So today there are real giants.



# Learning About Giants

## Reading Activity #1

Read the story card called "Giants - Real and Make-Believe!"

Complete the following activities.

1. How did stories about giants get invented?
2. Why were big people important years ago?
3. Who were the famous giants in the Bible?
4. Who are modern-day giants.
5. Storytellers said that giants caused many unexplainable things. Tell what each thing was.
  - a) A giant stomping his feet was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) A giant walking in soft mud caused \_\_\_\_\_ to form.
  - c) A giant smoking his pipe caused \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d) A giant's footprints formed \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e) A giant laughing caused \_\_\_\_\_.



# Learning About Giants

## Reading Activity #2

Read the story card called "David and Goliath".

Number the sentences in the correct order as they happened in the story.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Goliath was angry that the Israelites had sent a boy to fight him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ David heard Goliath's challenge.
- \_\_\_\_\_ David's stone hit Goliath right between the eyes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ David's father sent him to take supplies to his brothers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ On his way to the battlefield, David picked up five smooth stones.
- \_\_\_\_\_ King Saul praised David for being brave and gave him permission to fight Goliath.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Every day Goliath would challenge the Israelite soldiers to come out and fight him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Goliath staggered and fell down dead.
- \_\_\_\_\_ David asked King Saul if he could fight Goliath.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Philistines ran away in fear.

