

## CAN YOU WALK ON EGGS?



**LEVEL:** Grades 4-6

**SUBJECTS:** Language Arts,  
Dramatic Arts, and Health

**AZ ACADEMIC STANDARDS:** LS-R5, LS-D4,  
PO 2,

### **MATERIALS**

Copy for each student:  
*Best Egg Idiom Phrases,*  
*Self Evaluation Rubric and*  
*Questions*

### **VOCABULARY**

idiom, phrase, image,  
dramatize, insult, literal,  
culture, figurative,  
expressions

### **RELATED LESSONS**

Which Came First, The  
Chicken or the Egg?  
The Day an Egg Solved  
The Mystery of The Cell.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

“Don’t be chicken”! We’re  
going to “let the feathers  
fly” as we learn how to  
speak and write more  
colorfully.

The new word to learn is  
**IDIOM:** An idiom is a  
clever way of expressing a  
thought or feeling. An  
idiom is a way of creating  
an image in the listener’s  
mind to expand the  
communication process.  
Example: “She pulled the  
information out of her  
head”, if we heard this  
sentence **LITERALLY**  
(*word for word*) we would  
be expecting to see a  
woman pulling paper  
covered with information  
out of the side of her head,  
like off of a roll of toilet  
paper. However, if we

hear this **FIGURATIVELY** (*like a  
mental image*) we would  
understand the woman knew a lot  
of information and she could  
share it without much effort.

English is the language most of  
us speak the easiest. However,  
the English language can be very  
confusing and even complicated,  
especially to people who speak  
other languages.

Idioms are one of the most difficult  
parts of the language; it even  
seems difficult trying to explain.  
However, when we understand  
about idioms we can be better  
friends and neighbors to people  
and schoolmates who are learning  
English. Plus, when we go to a  
foreign country and have trouble  
communicating we can remember  
that they also have idioms we  
must learn.

Here’s another situation: you’re  
telling a friend that they should  
“walk on eggs”, and they’re  
looking at you like you’re crazy.  
Why would anybody make a mess  
like that and waste all that food?  
But, that’s not what you mean, is  
it? No, you mean that you want  
them to be careful how they act in  
that situation or with those people.

### **GETTING STARTED**

The game in this lesson is similar  
to Charades, so the classroom  
may need to be re-arranged. Cut  
up an extra copy of the student  
handout *Best Egg Idiom Phrases*  
for game pieces.

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

Figurative idiomatic  
phrases are some of the  
most colorful and difficult  
parts of any language.  
The words of an idiom,  
when used together,  
have a different meaning  
than when the words are  
used individually. While  
these phrases may be  
colorful and dramatic,  
they can also be  
confusing. This lesson  
takes the subject of the  
Arizona Grown Egg and  
has fun with popular egg  
idioms.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- To familiarize students with Arizona Grown fruits, vegetables, and eggs in an enjoyable fashion
- To introduce the vocabulary and concept of **IDIOMS**
- To become aware some people have difficulty learning a new language because of idioms
- To have fun with language

### **ESTIMATED TEACHING TIME**

1-2 hours, depending  
on how creatively the  
students respond.

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## PROCEDURES

### Session 1.

Introduce the lesson by using the *Supporting Information* to identify idioms.

Distribute the *Best Egg Idiom Phrases worksheet* to students. Read the "Eggs are Egg-cellent!" story. It contains lots of idioms. Then discuss what they mean. (All of the idioms are in quotation marks). Tell the students to listen carefully while the story is read aloud. When they hear an idiom in the story they should put a check mark on the worksheet.

After the story, discuss the idioms and how they made everybody feel. Have students discuss the literal and the figurative meanings of the idioms. Are there some idioms that are insulting or that could hurt people's feeling? Is the communication better when an idiom is used?

Have the students write a brief explanation of each idiom on the worksheet.

### Session 2.

Introduce the Game:

Each group of 2-3 students can select an idiom and plan together how to dramatize either the literal or the figurative meaning. To do this the group must agree on what the idiom means. Then they can either:

1. Present by pantomiming the literal (actual) words, (no talking) or
2. Present by pantomiming the figurative phrase. (no talking)

Other class members will observe and try to interpret the dramatizations. All of the phrases are in the story and on the worksheet.

## EVALUATION OPTIONS

1. Teacher evaluation of *Best Egg Idiom Phrases*, *Student self-evaluation Rubric* and *Questions*

2. Ask students - "What is an idiom?" Group of words or a phrase that adds color to our language and helps listeners visualize the event or subject we are talking about.

## EXTENSIONS AND VARIATIONS

1. Investigate other languages and cultures for popular idioms.
2. Students can query family members and neighbors for favorite idioms.

## RESOURCES

Education sites include:  
University of Illinois Extension Program

[www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/eggs](http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/eggs)

Education World

[www.education-world.com](http://www.education-world.com)

ThinkQuest

<http://tq/junior.thinkquest.org>

Pride Unlimited

[www.pride-unlimited.com](http://www.pride-unlimited.com)

Purdue University

[www.owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/esl](http://www.owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/esl)

Information about consumer safety, egg production, and business include:

Presidents Council on Food Safety - Egg Safety

Educating individuals

throughout the production to consumption continuum.

[www.foodsafety.gov/~fsg/cegs](http://www.foodsafety.gov/~fsg/cegs)

gs

United States Department of Agriculture

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

One of the most comprehensive information sources is:

Egg Nutrition Center

An all-encompassing center of research, safety, business, marketing for the egg industry and the consumer.

[www.enc-online.org](http://www.enc-online.org)

In Arizona be sure to check these websites:

State of Arizona Department of Agriculture - ARIZONA GROWN Program, 1688 W. Adams, Phoenix, AZ 85007 (602)542-4373

[www.agriculture.state.az.us](http://www.agriculture.state.az.us)

Hickman's Egg Ranch  
Their website has some interactive kid activities. Arizona can be proud of this homegrown business.

[www.hickmanseggs.com](http://www.hickmanseggs.com)

## CREDITS

All of the websites listed above were helpful in the development of this unit. The new Harcourt TROPHIES Timeless Treasures (Teacher's Edition) Theme 2, my district's new reading program was especially helpful in providing an easy to understand definition of an idiom. While there are many university sites on the Internet that have excellent ESL language resources about idioms, none define this enigma of language called the IDIOM as well as Harcourt.

Inspiration for the story comes from the hoards of starving students that have passed through my classes. The only thing that saves us all is humor.

## EDUCATORS' NOTES

### CURRICULUM DESIGN

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