

The Gingerbread Man and Kolobok

These ideas can be used for

- Cross-curricular topic work involving children's different languages
- Language classes in the community
- MFL classes

See also resources on powerpoint, pictures and story for Kolobok, and lesson plans ([links](#))

Teachers from Russian complementary school worked with a primary teacher to devise lessons based on the story of 'The Gingerbread Man' and a traditional Russian folk tale 'Kolobok', in which a little ball of dough also tries to escape from animals who want to eat him. Children in both settings first listened to the Gingerbread Man story in English, their stronger language. This helped them predict the story when they saw a sequence of pictures from 'Kolobok'. After hearing the story in Russian, children in primary school acted out the roles of Kolobok and different animals in the central rhyme with the help of classmate Sasha, who also attended Russian school. Keywords from the story became a focus for writing in Russian school, where new stories were also created about Kolobok in Africa and in the Arctic.

Sasha's confidence and concentration improved in both educational settings as a result. His Russian teacher commented: *He has changed now that I've seen him in his English school...Now he helps me in Russian school and tells me stories of what he did in the week...He really enjoys Russian and thinks it is something 'cool'.*

Resources

- English story book of The Gingerbread Man and powerpoint sequence of images from Kolobok, plus story in Russian
- Keyword worksheets in English, Russian and transliterated Russian

Lesson structure

- Children find stories similar to Gingerbread Man (ask parents, search internet)
- Listen to 'Gingerbread Man' in English, then see 'Kolobok' pictures
- Predict 'Kolobok' story and listen in Russian, rehearse and roleplay rhyme
- Focus on letter-sound correspondences in keywords at Russian school
- Devise own stories in Russian or in English incorporating Russian words, or in other languages

Aspects of learning

- Explore similarities and differences between parallel folktales
- Strengthens children's understanding of narrative and concepts in both stories
- Reinforces learning of vocabulary and grammatical structures in both languages
- Collaborative work highlights bilingual classmates' knowledge and resources

Home-school links

- Ask parents/grandparents about their knowledge of folktales and keywords in the stories
- Invite parents/grandparents to help children invent new stories involving different animals or settings in different countries