

# The Gingerbread Man Unit and School Hunt

The Gingerbread Man unit is often done at the beginning of the school year as a way to introduce students to the school and staff in a fun and friendly way. Students get a tour of the school while chasing the Gingerbread Man.

Classes spend the week doing “all things gingerbread” across the curriculum. For example, during Language Arts, we compare and contrast different versions of the Gingerbread Man story; for Math, we may graph the characters or settings that show up in each story; for Art, the children may cut and decorate cardstock Gingerbread cookies to look like themselves. At the end of the week, they mix and bake real gingerbread man cookies. If real cookies can't be used, cardstock Gingerbread Men can be substituted.

After the cookies are baked, the children go out to recess while the cookies cool, but they always disappear by the time the class gets back. So the children hunt through the school,

visiting important places (like the office, clinic, gym, lunch room, art room, etc.) and meeting important people (like the principal, janitor, secretary, nurse, music teacher, etc.) According to the staff, the Gingerbread Men usually have “just” passed through these places, leaving footprints or candies behind.

Sometimes this hunt is done throughout the week and the Gingerbread Men leave rhyming clues each day in different places (these clues can be found under the [GINGERBREAD HUNT CLUES](#) links above.) But eventually those smart cookies always find their way back to the classroom.

Teachers also use the Gingerbread Man chase during the holidays, with emphasis on the gingerbread/ Holidays around the World theme.

Here are some helpful links for the traditional Gingerbread Man School Unit:

- [Gingerbread Teaching Theme](#)
- [The Gingerbread Man](#)

