

THERE'S A YAK IN MY BED

By K. Pluta

Yaktivity Guide

YAK Q & A

How is a yak like a coffee bean?

Both yaks and coffee beans are essential to making popular morning beverages. Coffee is made from coffee beans. And yak milk is made into butter for Yak Butter Tea, a popular drink in Tibet.

Who wears wigs made from yak hair?

Circus clowns at Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey.

What sound does a yak make?

Although related to cows, yaks do not moo. They grunt.

Are yaks endangered?

Yes, according to the Alaska Zoo www.alaskazoo.org there are only about four hundred yaks in Nepal and Tibet.

Look for more facts about yaks, the book, and the author at

<http://kpluta.livejournal.com>

LEARN WITH YAK

Letters of the Alphabet In addition to the letter **Y** the book can be used to study: **W**- Yak eats waffles, **X**- Yak's best friend is Fox, and **Z**- Yaks are usually found in zoos. You can have a whole "End of the Alphabet" party with Yak.

Creative Writing The author left a dangling ending on purpose. She wanted kids to use their imaginations and think outside of the box. Have kids write a story about what happens next.

Letter Writing Yak wants to go to school to learn to write a letter to Fox. Letter writing is becoming a lost art. Have children write a letter to a friend, family member, or even a favorite author.

Idioms Ted's mom asks if he has a "frog in his throat." Have children think of other common idioms.

Manners Yak burps and sneezes in the book. Teach children how to say "Excuse me," and properly cover a cough or sneeze.

Math/Science Use paper or felt waffles to demonstrate counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and fractions. Or practice measuring by making real waffles in class. Discover how ingredients interact and are affected by heat.

Science/Social Studies Discuss natural animal habitats (not beds) and endangered animals. Find Tibet on a map and learn how Tibetans use yaks. Compare this to how early Native Americans used buffalo.

Coloring/Handwriting
<http://www.first-school.ws/activities/alpha/y/yak.htm>

FUN AND GAMES

Find the Fox Hide a paper cutout or a plush fox in the classroom. Have the children ask Yes or No questions. Example: Is the fox behind the book shelf? Is the fox to the left of the computer? The child who correctly guesses first, gets to hide the Fox next. For older children, use this game to reinforce geography. Example: Ask Yes or No questions to figure out which state Yak is visiting. Does the state begin with **W**? Is the state on the east coast?

Sneaky Yak This game is a variation of "Red Light, Green Light." One player is *Mom*, and the others are *yaks*. The object is to touch *Mom* without getting caught. *Mom* stands at the front of the room facing away from the *yaks* who line up about 15 feet back. When *Mom* says *Waffles*, the *yaks* move forward. If *Mom* says *Now, Ted!* they must stop before *Mom* turns around. If *Mom* catches any kids moving, they are out. The first player to touch *Mom* wins and gets to be *Mom* for the next round. If everyone is called out before touching *Mom*, *Mom* wins!

Yak Punch To make a fizzy green drink like the one Yak and Fox share, mix equal parts lemon-lime soda and limeade. Add ice and a curly straw.