

**Go to Sleep, Gecko!**  
Retold by Margaret Read MacDonald  
Illustrated by Geraldo Valério

**Outcome:**

Students will learn about fireflies and luminescence.

**Materials:**

- Map or globe, ruler
- “Scrambled Sentences” worksheet
- “ABC Order” worksheet
- “Build a Sentence” worksheet
- “Short e Phonics” worksheet
- Glow in the dark light stick
- Assortment of tropical fruits, knife, plates, napkins
- Coconut pancakes: 3 ½ ounces rice flour, 2 tablespoons sugar, ¼ teaspoon salt, 3 eggs, 1 cup coconut milk, 2 tablespoons oil, large bowl, whisk, skillet
- (Optional): *How and Why Stories: World Tales Kid Can Read and Tell* (Martha Hamilton, Mitch Weiss), *Wisdom Tales from Around the World* (Heather Forest)

**About the Book:**

Guided Reading:

K

Lexile Level:

430L

Character Traits:

Citizenship

Respect

Sharing

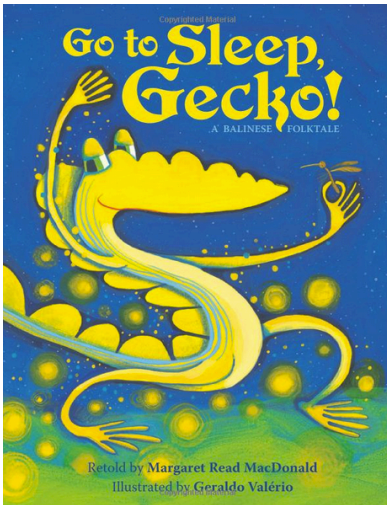
Region:

Asia, Bali

ISBN:

978-0-8748-3780-3

978-1-9391-6092-8



## Go to Sleep, Gecko!

First Grade

### **Instructional Plan**

#### Introduction

- Teacher writes each of these letters on a sheet of paper, large enough for students to see: L-U-M-I-N-O-U-S
- Choose 8 students to come to front of room. Scramble the letters and give one to each student.
- Students stand in front of room and display letters.
- Remaining students take turns putting students in correct order to spell a word, using all of the letters.
- Give hints as appropriate.
- Arrange students to spell the word “luminous” if students did not already guess the word. Ask students if they know what it means. (Emitting a light.)
- Ask students to name animals or insects that luminescent (fireflies, fish).
- Repeat above activity with “nocturnal”
- Ask students what “nocturnal” means. (Active at night.) Name animals that are nocturnal.
- Students share the fact they know about fireflies. Supplement the following facts:
  - Fireflies are a type of beetle. Those that glow are not usually found west of Kansas in the US.
  - Fireflies range from 1/5 of an inch to 1 inch in length.
  - Fireflies produce a cold light by using special organs on the underside of their abdomen. Just about 100% of the firefly’s energy is given off as light. A normal electric light bulb gives off 10% of its energy as light. 90% is wasted as heat.
  - The rhythmic pattern they produce by flashing varies depending on their sex and species.
  - Males flash about every 5 seconds; females flash about every 2 seconds.
  - The brightness of a single firefly is about 1/40 of a candle.
  - There are over 2,000 species of fireflies; the greatest number of fireflies are found in tropical Asia, Central and South America. (Show on map or globe.)

#### **Common Core**

##### **Standards:**

**CCSS.ELA-  
LITERACY.L.1.2.E**

Spell untaught words phonetically

**CCSS.ELA-  
LITERACY.RL.1.7**

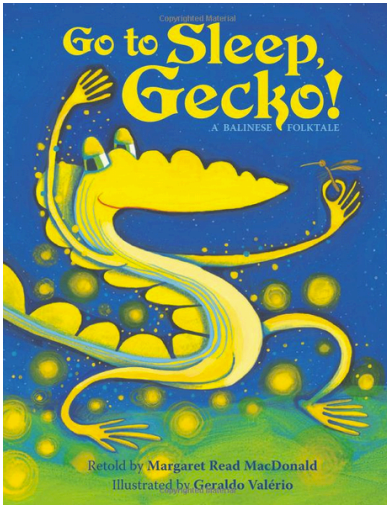
Use illustrations/details in a story to describe characters, setting, or events

**CCSS.ELA-  
LITERACY.RL.1.2**

Retell stories and demonstrate understanding of lesson

#### Teacher Reads the Story

- Inform students that they will be listening to a story from Bali in which luminescence is very important.



# Go to Sleep, Gecko!

First Grade

## **Questions for Assessing Students' Comprehension:**

- Where does this story take place?
- What was Gecko's problem?
- Why did he tell Elephant?
- What did the fireflies say to Elephant?
- What did Buffalo say to Elephant?
- What did Rain say to Elephant?
- Explain how the fireflies, the buffalo, the rain, and the gecko are all interconnected.
- How does the story end?

### **Common Core**

#### **Standards:**

#### **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1**

Ask and answer questions about details

#### **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3**

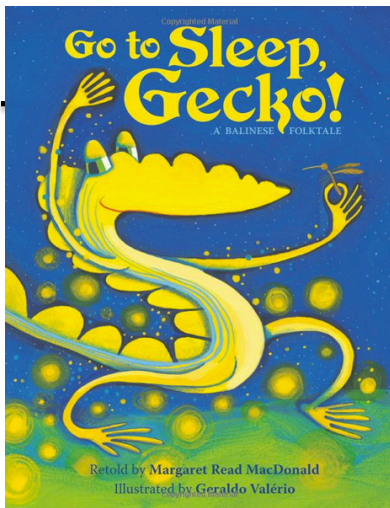
Describe characters, settings, and events

#### **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7**

Use illustrations/details in a story to describe characters, setting, or events

## **Questions for Interpretation:**

- Why are the words "luminous" and "nocturnal" important to this story?
- How did Gecko feel when Elephant told him to go home and go to sleep?
- How did Elephant feel about being awakened?
- How did Elephant's attitude change during the story? Show illustrations each time he was awakened.
- When the fireflies explained why they blinked their lights, how did Elephant feel about their answer?
- What lesson did Gecko learn?
- What are some things that you have to put up with?
- Explain what Elephant meant when he said the world is interconnected. Name some other ways that this is true.
- How did the illustrator show luminescence in the pictures?
- Choose another title for this story.



## Go to Sleep, Gecko!

First Grade

### **Follow Up Activities:**

#### **Drama Skits**

##### **Directions:**

- Balinese folktales tried to explain things in nature that the island's people did not understand. Their stories were an important way to pass on the moral code of their society and show acceptable ways of getting along with others.
  - What natural phenomena are explained by this story? (Fireflies, interdependence of all things)
  - What social values are taught? (Caring, citizenship, tolerance, acceptance, etc.)
- Divide the class into small groups
- Create a skit to explain a natural phenomenon, such as why snake has no feet, why roses have thorns, etc. More story ideas can be found in *How and Why Stories* (Martha Hamilton, Mitch Weiss)

#### **“Scrambled Sentences” Worksheet**

##### **Directions:**

- Write the sentences provided on the worksheet in the correct order to tell the story.
- Draw a picture to illustrate one of the sentences on another sheet of paper.

#### **“ABC Order” Worksheet**

##### **Directions:**

- Organize the words provided on the worksheet in alphabetical order.

#### **“Short e Phonics” Worksheet**

##### **Directions:**

- “Elephant” and “gecko” both have the short e sound.
- Put an x on the words that have the short e sound.
- Write 5 words that have a short e sound.

#### **Measuring**

##### **Directions:**

- A gecko's size ranges from ½ inch to 14 inches.
- Use a ruler to measure and compare these distances.

### **Common Core**

#### **Standards:**

##### **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.7**

Participate in shared research and writing projects

##### **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.1**

Participate in collaborative conversations

##### **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.5**

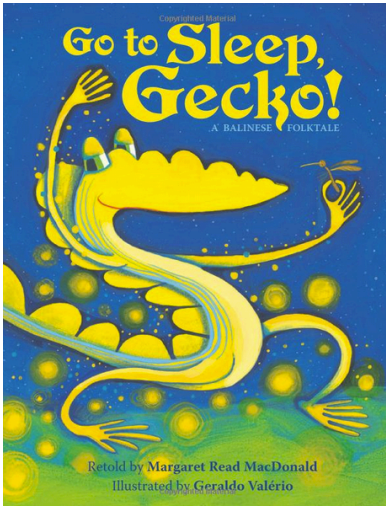
Add visual displays to descriptions

##### **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.6**

Produce complete sentences

##### **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.1.2.E**

Spell untaught words phonetically



## Go to Sleep, Gecko!

First Grade

### **Follow Up Activities:**

#### **“Build a Sentence” Worksheet**

##### **Directions:**

- Worksheet has 33 words; cut out individually.
- Divide the students into small groups. Each group uses one worksheet and cuts out the words.
- Students take turns creating sentences using only the words from the worksheet.
- Students check each sentence and take turns writing down the group’s sentences on a paper. Remind students that sentences start with a capital letter and end with a period.
- Share sentences with the class.
- Take turns trying to create the longest sentence possible with the words given.
- Ask students to name words that they wish had been included in the list provided (words that would have helped them make sentences). Write those words on the board.

#### **Light Sticks**

##### **Directions:**

- Demonstrate to the class how a glow in the dark stick works.
- Most light sticks have 2 separate compartments with a different chemical in each one. When the stick is bent or cracked, the two chemicals mix and the stick glows.
- This is similar to how the firefly glows. It is the oxygen that the firefly breathes combined with substances in the abdominal area that create the glow.

#### **Tropical Fruit Tasting**

##### **Directions:**

- Tropical fruits are an important part of the Balinese diet.
- Some children are allergic to tropical fruit; check with parents before tasting.
- Bring several of the following fruits for a class tasting: papaya, star fruit, grapefruit, bananas, mango, oranges, coconut, passion fruit, pineapple, etc.
- Have students rate each fruit on a scale of 1 to 5. Graph results on the board.

### **Common Core**

#### **Standards:**

CCSS.ELA-  
LITERACY.SL.1.6

Produce complete sentences

CCSS.ELA-  
LITERACY.L.1.1.A

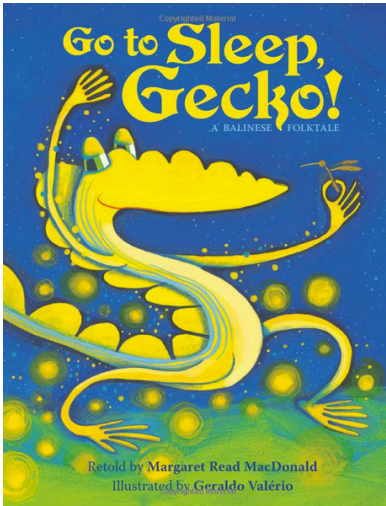
Print all upper and lowercase letters

CCSS.ELA-  
LITERACY.L.1.1.J

Produce and expand complete simple and compound sentences

CCSS.ELA-  
LITERACY.L.1.2.B

Use end punctuation for sentences



## Go to Sleep, Gecko!

First Grade

### **Follow Up Activities:**

#### **Coconut Pancakes**

##### **Directions:**

- Refer to the ingredients listed on page 1 in “materials”
- Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Stir well with a whisk until lumps dissolve.
- Strain batter through a strainer.
- Heat a non-stick skillet over low heat.
- Place 4 tablespoons of batter in pan to make very thin pancakes. Cool to room temperature.

#### **Read “Gluscabi and the Magic Bag Game”**

##### **Directions:**

- Read this story from page 133 of *Wisdom Tales from Around the World* by Heather Forest.
- Compare and contrast this tale of ecological concerns and interdependence with *Go to Sleep, Gecko!*

### **Common Core**

#### **Standards:**

CCSS.ELA-

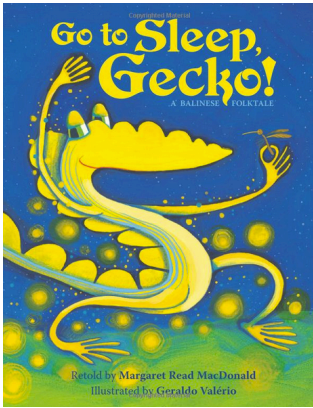
LITERACY.SL.1.1

Participate in collaborative conversations

CCSS.ELA-

LITERACY.RL.1.9

Compare and contrast



# Go to Sleep, Gecko!

First Grade

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## Scrambled Sentences

**Directions:** Write the sentences in the correct order to tell the story. Draw a picture to illustrate one of the sentences on another sheet of paper.

1. Gecko went to sleep.
2. Elephant told Gecko that you have to put up with some things.
3. The gecko could not sleep.
4. Gecko talked to Elephant.
5. Elephant talked to the fireflies.

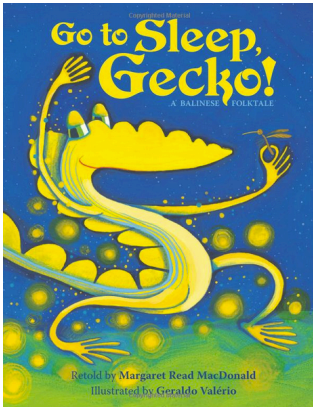
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Go to Sleep, Gecko!

First Grade

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## ABC Order

Directions: Directions: put the following words in ABC order:  
gecko elephant firefly buffalo rain village road  
mosquitoes sleep bed

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

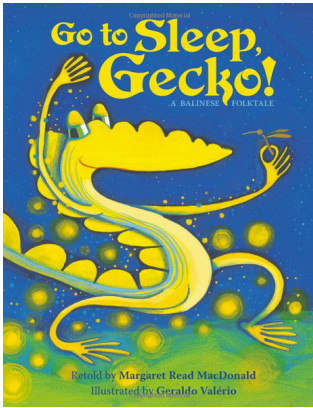
7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_





# Go to Sleep, Gecko!

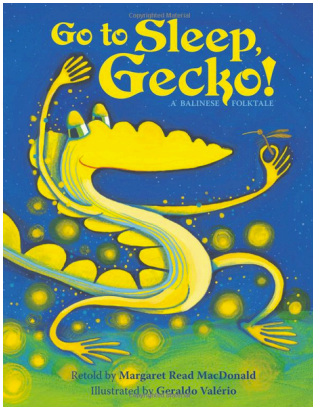
First Grade

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Build a Sentence

gecko	rain	flitting
couldn't	the	stop
fireflies	are	called
around	my	that
them	the	night
house	and	home
said	is	make
thoughtful	the	go
to	eats	talk
are	elephant	in
sleep	awakened	mosquitoes



Go to Sleep, Gecko!

First Grade

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## Short e Phonics

**Directions:** Elephant and gecko both have the short e sound. Put an x on the words that have the short e sound. Write five (5) words that have a short e sound.

eat eyes nest teeth bed keep mess step

