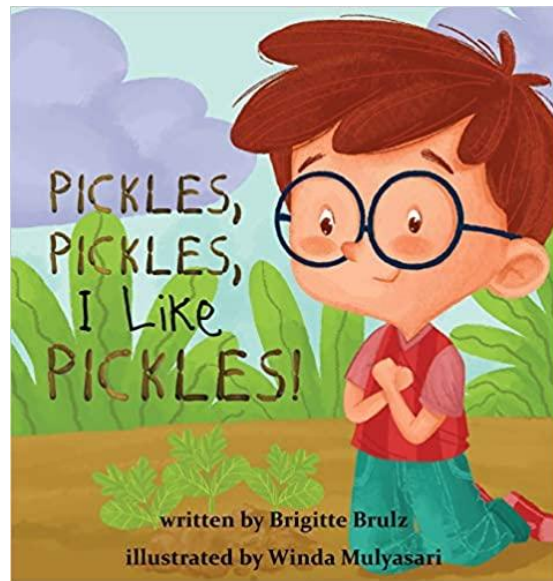


Teacher's Guide



Softcover



Hardcover

Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles

Author: Brigitte Brulz

Illustrator: Winda Mulyasari

Guide Created by Brigitte Brulz

About the Author

Brigitte Brulz is a freelance writer, author, lesson designer, and homeschooling mom. She has enjoyed growing a variety of fruits and vegetables in her family's garden. Using her grandma's recipe, she and her family have turned many cucumbers into yummy bread and butter pickles, which are her favorite. Besides cucumbers, she and her husband have also tried pickling jalapenos and green beans.

For more information, you can visit her website at www.brittebrulz.com.

About the Illustrator

Winda Mulyasari is an illustrator from Indonesia. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. She is also the illustrator of *Jobs of a Preschooler*.

About the Book

Title: *Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles*

Author: Brigitte Brulz

Illustrator: Winda Mulyasari

Ages: 4–8

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Summary: A young boy who really likes pickles wants to grow pickles in his garden, but he is surprised by what he discovers – there are no bread and butter pickle plants or dill pickle trees. He learns a lot as he and his mom transform seeds from the store into yummy pickles to enjoy on everything from hot dogs to ice cream. Well, maybe not ice cream!

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Teacher's Guide Information

This teacher's guide was created for use with the book *Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles* written by Brigitte Brulz. The content is intended for children ages 4–8 and can be used in a classroom or home setting.

This guide includes activities for reading, science, math, social studies, and art. Completing all activities is not a requirement! Please feel free to choose whichever activities work best for your situation.

Thank you for using this guide. May you have a wonderful day!

Table of Contents

Reading	5
Before You Read.....	5
While You Read.....	6
After You Read.....	6
Science	7
How Plants Grow.....	7
Seed Discussion.....	7
Seed Planting.....	8
From Cucumber to Pickle.....	8
How Foods Grow Worksheet.....	9
How Foods Grow Answers.....	10
How to Make Pickles Worksheet.....	11
How to Make Pickles Answers.....	12
Math	13
Charting Pickles.....	13
Hot Cucumber.....	13
Word Problems.....	13
Social Studies	14
Cucumber Geography.....	14
Is it a Pickle?.....	14
Country Flag Match Worksheet.....	15
Country Flag Match Answers.....	16
Art	17
Cucumber Stamps.....	17
Cucumber Characters.....	17
Coloring Page 1 – Pulling Weeds.....	18
Coloring Page 2 – Watching Plants Grow.....	19
Coloring Page 3 – Dill or Bread and Butter?.....	20
Coloring Page 4 – Pickles on Ice Cream.....	21
Extra	22
25 Fun Activities for <i>Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles</i>	22

Reading

Before you read *Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles*, discuss:

- What is the title of this book?
(Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles)
- What does an author do? Who is the author?
(An author writes books. The author is Brigitte Brulz.)
- What does an illustrator do? Who is the illustrator?
(An illustrator draws the pictures. The illustrator is Winda Mulyasari.)
- Softcover version: What do the different pictures on the left side of the cover show?
(The small pictures show bags of seeds, planting seeds, watering, plants sprouting, and plants growing.)
- Softcover version: Why do you think there is a picture of a tree with a circle and a line through it on the right side of the cover?
(Answers may vary. In the story, readers will discover cucumbers do not grow on trees.)
- Softcover version: What is growing on the bottom of the cover?
(Some kids may think pickles, but they will learn that they are actually cucumbers as they hear the story.)
- Hardcover version: What is the boy on the front cover doing?
(He is kneeling on the ground with his arms folded across his chest.)
- Hardcover version: How do you think the boy is feeling?
(Answers may vary. Possible answers could include happy or excited because he has a smile on his face.)
- Hardcover version: What kind of plants are growing near the boy?
(Some kids may think pickles, but they will learn that they are actually cucumber plants as they hear the story.)
- Do you notice how the word "pickles" is written?
(It is written with actual pickles as the font.)
- What do you think will happen in this story? Why?
(Answers will vary.)

While you read *Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles*:

- Have students help with the reading by saying “pickles, pickles, I like pickles” every time it appears.
- Ask questions, such as the following:
 - ✓ What does the boy want to grow?
 - ✓ What does the boy wonder? Do you think he is right?
 - ✓ Why do you think the word “bigger” is written the way it is?
 - ✓ Why do you think the word “spread” is written the way it is?
 - ✓ What kind of pickles do you think will grow?
 - ✓ How does the boy feel when he takes a bite out of what he thought was a pickle?
 - ✓ How long does it take for the pickles to be ready?
 - ✓ Do you eat pickles on your ice cream? What are some things you eat pickles on?

After you read, *Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles*, discuss:

- Have you ever grown a garden? If so, what did you grow in your garden?
(Answers will vary.)
- What kind of work did the boy have to do in the garden?
(plant, water, pull weeds)
- What does the boy learn in the story?
(where pickles come from and how to make pickles)
- What did the boy and his mom turn into pickles?
(cucumbers, which they grew from seeds they bought at a store and planted)
- Did you know you can pickle other foods, too?
(Answers will vary. Other foods that can be pickled include green beans, beets, eggs, pears, various peppers, blueberries, watermelon rinds, and more.)
- Sometimes people say a person is “in a pickle.” What does that mean?
(A person is in trouble or in a situation that isn't easy and may not be able to figure out what to do right away.)
- What are some other food related phrases like “in a pickle”?
(Examples may include “as cool as a cucumber,” “go bananas,” “in a jam,” “piece of cake,” and “don't spill the beans.” These strange phrases are known as idioms.)

Science

How Plants Grow

Cucumbers grow on vines. Talk about how different foods may grow on plants and complete the worksheet found on page 8. (You can add more foods to the chart if you would like.)

Additional books to read about plants include *Plants Can't Sit Still* by Rebecca E. Hirsch, *Plants Feed Me* by Lizzy Rockwell, and *Plants We Eat* by Christine Peterson.

Seed Discussion

Look at different seeds and discuss them. What do you notice about them? How are they similar? How are they different?

How do you think seeds can get to different places? (*Some are planted by people. Others may float in water, blow in the wind, pop in the air, or even get eaten and pooped out by animals.*)

Additional books to read about seeds include *A Seed is Sleepy* by Dianna Aston and *How a Seed Grows* by Helene J. Jordan.

Seed Dissection

Soak some lima bean seeds in water overnight. Remove the lima beans from the water. Peel off the seed coat. What does the seed coat do? (*protects the seed*) Open the seed carefully. What do you see in the inside? (*You should see the baby plant, which has a root part and leaf part and the food for the plant, which is known as cotyledon.*) Students can draw their own seeds and label the parts as seed coat, leaf, root, and food.

Seed Planting

Plant your own seeds using green bean seeds, paper towel, resealable plastic sandwich bags, and tape. Soak the seeds overnight. Slightly moisten a piece of paper towel. Fold the paper towel and carefully place it in the sandwich bag. Place seeds in the bag along the side of the paper towel. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag. Tape the bag on a window. Observe the seeds each day.

From Cucumber to Pickle

Living things such as plants have a life cycle. How did the cucumbers grow in the story? (*The boy and his mom planted seeds and watered them, seedlings began to sprout, the plants grew bigger, flowers appeared, and the cucumbers grew.*)

Put the life cycle of cucumbers and the process of making pickles in order as seen in the book *Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles* using the sheet on page 10.

Additional books to read about plant life cycles include *Plant Cycle* by Ray James and *Plant Life Cycles* by Sally Morgan.



* More information about the additional books mentioned in this section can be found on www.brittebrulz.com by typing "14 Children's Books About Seeds, Plants, and Gardening" in the search box on the bottom of the "blog" section page.

HOW FOODS GROW

Cut out the foods listed at the bottom of this page on the lines.

Glue them into the columns that show where they grow.

ON VINES	ON TREES	UNDERGROUND

Apples	Carrots	Cucumbers
Grapes	Lemons	Oranges
Peanuts	Potatoes	Watermelon

HOW FOODS GROW

ANSWERS

Cut out the foods listed at the bottom of this page on the lines.

Glue them into the columns that show where they grow.

ON VINES	ON TREES	UNDERGROUND
Cucumbers	Apples	Peanuts
Grapes	Oranges	Potatoes
Watermelons	Lemons	Carrots

Apples	Carrots	Cucumbers
Grapes	Lemons	Oranges
Peanuts	Potatoes	Watermelon

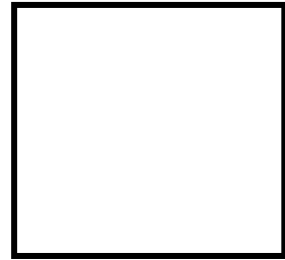
Cut the pictures out and paste them in the boxes in the correct order.



Buy seeds



Plant seeds



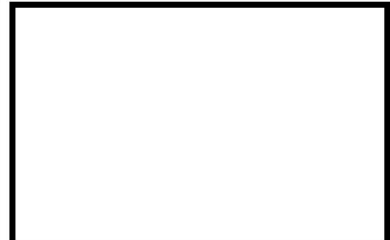
Water seeds



Little plants grow



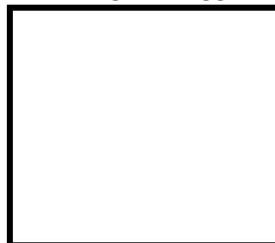
Plants grow bigger



Flowers and Cucumbers grow



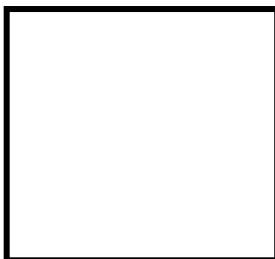
Pick cucumbers



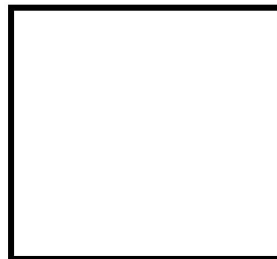
Wash cucumbers



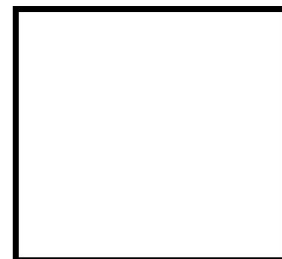
Cut cucumbers



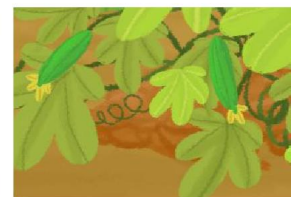
Fill jars with cucumbers



Add vinegar and spices



Enjoy





Buy seeds



Plant seeds



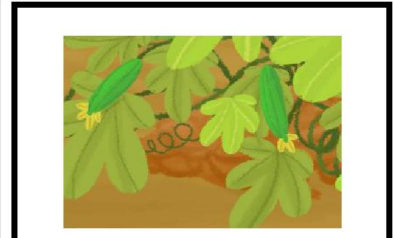
Water seeds



Little plants grow



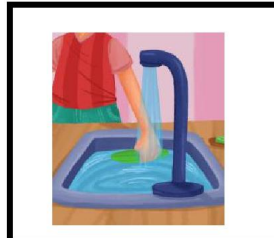
Plants grow bigger



Flowers and Cucumbers grow



Pick cucumbers



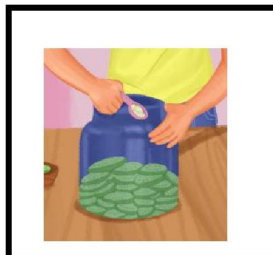
Wash cucumbers



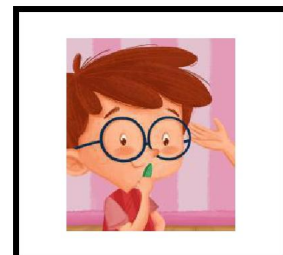
Cut cucumbers



Fill jars with cucumbers



Add vinegar and spices



Enjoy

Math

Charting Pickles

Taste test two different kinds of pickles (as long as there are no allergies). Create a chart showing which pickle each person prefers.

** If doing this in a home setting, each member of the family can choose his or her favorite pickle to chart.*

Hot Cucumber

Sit in a circle and gently pass a cucumber from person to person as you skip count. For example, if you choose to skip count by 2s, the first person says "2" and passes the cucumber to the second person who says "4" before passing it on to the next person. Play continues until a predetermined number (of your choice) is called out.

Want to play again? Choose another number to skip count by and continue to play.

Alternative Option: Person holding the cucumber states a math problem for the cucumber catcher to answer. The cucumber catcher answers the problem and then states a new math problem for the next cucumber catcher to answer.

Word Problems

- If the boy picks 3 cucumbers and his mom picks 4 cucumbers, how many cucumbers did they pick in all?
(3 + 4 = 7, so 7 cucumbers. Insert different numbers if desired and repeat the problem.)
- If the boy picks 6 cucumbers and his mom picks 2 cucumbers. Who picked more? How many more?
(The boy picked 4 more [6 - 2] than his mom. Insert different numbers if desired and repeat the problem.)
- If the boy and his mom planted 2 rows of 6 seeds, how many total seeds did they plant?
(6 x 2 = 12, so 12 seeds. A diagram may be helpful to show this word problem. Insert different numbers if desired and repeat the problem.)

Social Studies

Cucumber Geography

According to World Atlas¹, the top ten largest cucumber producers in the world are China, Turkey, Iran, Russia, Ukraine, Spain, United States of America, Mexico, Egypt and Uzbekistan.

Find these ten countries on a world map. (*Students can color the ten countries on individually printed world maps if available.*)

After studying the flags of each of the ten countries, see how many flags students can match to their countries using the worksheet on page 14.

Is it a Pickle?

People in the United States and Canada call pickled cucumbers "pickles." Find United States and Canada on a world map.

People in Australia, Britain, Ireland, South Africa, and New Zealand call pickled cucumbers "gherkins." Find these 5 countries on a world map.

Since there are so many foods that can be pickled, some countries do not call pickled cucumbers "pickles." Other foods, besides cucumbers, that can be pickled include carrots, green beans, beets, eggs, pears, peppers, blueberries, watermelon rinds (the outside of a watermelon), mangoes, turnips, and more.

Research what pickling is. Then find a recipe for quick pickles. Make your own quick pickles to sample.



¹ <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-world-leaders-in-cucumber-production.html>

COUNTRY FLAG MATCH

Cucumbers

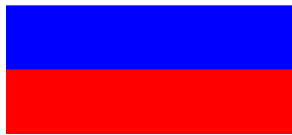
Write the name of the country on the line under the country's flag.

	China	Egypt	Iran	Mexico	Russia
Spain	Turkey	Ukraine	United States	Uzbekistan	





















(Flag pictures from Pixnio.)

COUNTRY FLAG MATCH ANSWERS

Cucumbers

Write the name of the country on the line under the country's flag.

China Egypt Iran Mexico Russia
Spain Turkey Ukraine United States Uzbekistan



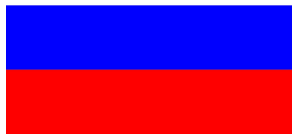
China



Turkey



Iran



Russia



Ukraine



Spain



United States



Mexico



Egypt



Uzbekistan

(Flag pictures from Pixnio.)

Art

Cucumber Stamps

Cut a cucumber in half horizontally and a cucumber in half vertically. Dip the exposed interior of the cucumber slices in paint and stamp them on a piece of paper.

What kinds of texture do you get on the paper? Can you see any seeds in the painting on the paper?

Cucumber Characters

Create a cucumber character. Using green construction paper, draw and cut a large cucumber shape. Then add eyes, nose, mouth, ears, and clothes.

Additional Option 1: Discuss senses as the eyes, nose, and mouth are added.

Additional Option 2: Create a story about the cucumber character.



* More activity ideas to go along with the book *Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles* can be found on www.brittebrulz.com under the "Fun Extras" tab.



Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles by Brigitte Brulz



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25 Fun Activities for *Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles!*



1. There are a variety of food items that can be “pickled.” Discuss that “pickling” is a way for people to get some foods to last longer. Sometimes people “pickle” items by putting them in a jar of vinegar and other spices. Most people in the United States think of pickled cucumbers as “pickles.”
2. Since people “pickle” items to make them last longer, try an experiment together that shows this concept. Cut a cucumber into multiple pieces. Place a couple pieces in each of the following places: 1. on a small plate on the counter (or somewhere exposed) 2. in a small container in the refrigerator (covered) 3. in a small container in the refrigerator (uncovered) 4. in a small covered jar with vinegar covering the cucumber slices (placed in the refrigerator) 5. in a small covered jar with vinegar covering the cucumber slices (on the counter). Hypothesize what will happen to the cucumber slices in each of the locations. Each day, check on the cucumber slices and see what happens. Are there any differences?
3. Since cucumbers aren't the only food items that can be “pickled,” visit a grocery store and count the number of pickled items you can find. If adventurous, buy a unique pickled item to taste test.
4. Create a collage of food items that are pickled, such as cucumbers, green beans, beets, eggs, pears, peppers, blueberries, watermelon rinds, and more. (If you can't find enough pictures in magazines for the child to cut out, find pictures online to print or have the child draw their own pictures.)
5. Cucumbers are often used to make what people in the United States know as “pickles.” Look at a variety of cucumbers. Talk about the textures of them - smooth vs. bumpy. Then, taste test a couple of different kinds of cucumbers.
6. Cucumbers grow on vines. Create a display together that shows some foods that grow on vines (cucumbers, grapes, watermelon, etc.), some foods that grow on trees (apples, oranges, lemons, etc.), and some foods that grow underground (peanuts, potatoes, carrots, etc.).
7. Paint with cucumbers. Cut 2 cucumbers in half (each in a different direction so that you have two different shaped “cucumber stamps”). Then, dip the exposed interior of the cucumbers in paint and stamp them on to a piece of paper. See what kind of textures you get on the paper. Can you see the seeds in the painting?
8. A lot of people think cucumbers are vegetables, but they are technically fruits since their seeds are inside of them. Create a chart of vegetables versus fruits.
9. There are quite a few pickle-themed or pickle-flavored items available for purchase, such as pickle-shaped erasers and pickle-flavored chips. Have the child create and draw a picture of his/her own made-up pickle-shaped or pickle-flavored item.
10. Buy a small jar of pickles. Guess how many pickles are in the pickle jar. Then, (prepare to get sticky) open the jar and count the pickles to see how close the guesses were.
11. The word PICKLES in the book *Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles!* was created by taking pictures of real pickles laid out as letters. Create your own letters (and small words) using pickles. If you don't want to get sticky (or use up your pickles), use some other item to create various letters such as toothpicks, bendable straws, q-tips, pens, pencils, blocks, yarn, etc.

12. Taste test a variety of pickles—dill, bread and butter, etc. Have each person choose his or her favorite. Create a chart to see which pickle variety is the most favored.
13. The various kinds of pickles are created based on the spices or seasonings that are used. Smell, see, feel, and possibly taste a variety of seasonings or spices that can be used to make pickles.
14. Create a “pickle face.” Using green construction paper, draw and cut out a large pickle. Then, add eyes, nose, mouth, ears, and possibly hands to the “pickle face.” As each of the parts is added, discuss the sense that goes with it. For example, eyes see, noses smell, etc.
15. Pickles may come in a variety of shapes since they may be whole, speared, or sliced. Talk about different shapes that you can see in the room you are in. Try to find one item for each of the following shapes: circle, square, rectangle, triangle, diamond, oval, etc.
16. Watch *Magic School Bus: In a Pickle*.
17. In *Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles*, the cucumbers that were turned into pickles were grown in a garden. If possible, grow your own cucumber plants in a garden. Otherwise, place seeds in a resealable bag and watch them grow.
18. After reading the book, talk about the steps it took to make the pickles from seed to finish. Possibly, put them into order: planted seeds, watered the garden, picked weeds, plants grew, flowers bloomed, cucumbers grew from small to big enough to pick, picked the cucumbers, washed the cucumbers, mom cut the cucumbers, placed the cucumbers in jars with spices and vinegar, kept the jars in the refrigerator, tasted a pickle.
19. Make your own refrigerator pickles.
20. Cucumbers are green. Go on a scavenger hunt for as many green items as you can find within a certain amount of time.
21. Find and cut out the letters P-I-C-K-L-E-S from a variety of magazines and glue them on to a piece of paper.
22. Play “hot cucumber.” Play some music while passing a cucumber around for a short amount of time. Then, stop the music. The person who is holding the cucumber when the music stops is out. Play continues until only one person is left.
23. Sometimes people may say a person may be “in a pickle” or “as cool as a cucumber.” Talk about what these and other food related phrases mean. Some examples include “go bananas,” “in a jam,” “piece of cake,” and “don’t spill the beans.”
24. Color the coloring pages that go along with the book.
25. The author of *Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles* has a family tradition of placing a pickle-shaped ornament on a Christmas tree for her daughters to find on Christmas. Discuss traditions around the world.