

Title: Frog and Toad Button Sorting
Level: Elementary
Type: Math Lesson

Lesson Planner

Step 1: Provide basic information to describe the lesson

Date: April 200_

Teacher Name: Mrs. Gilson

Grade Level: 1

Title of Lesson: Frog and Toad Button Sorting

Content Areas: Mathematics

Brief Description of Lesson: Students will classify and describe objects by their attributes after talking about lost things, listening to “A Lost Button” from *Frog and Toad are Friends*, and practicing and playing games in groups.

Step 2: Set Goals: Students will learn to classify and describe objects by their attributes. They will use recall and prediction, and work in groups and pairs to practice.

California Standards: First Grade Measurement and Geometry 2.2. “Classify familiar and solid objects by common attributes, such as color, position, shape, size, roundness, or number of corners, and explain which attributes are being used for classification.”

Step 3: Generate Interest and Discussion: Ask children to tell about a time when they lost something. Discuss how they found things they have lost. Children will listen to a story about how Toad knew which one was his when he lost a button. Teacher will model the story on the flannel board, and encourage students to recall and predict the button attributes.

Step 4: Assess student learning: While the students are playing the games, teacher will walk around and observe to identify and make notes about students who can successfully identify buttons by their attributes and students who are having difficulty. Students share the attributes they used for sorting their buttons with the whole class, and discuss how they used the answers to find the missing button.

Step 5: Put the Lesson in Context: *Frog and Toad* books are very popular. Students will have had other color lessons, possibly used Tangrams or wooden puzzles or computer games for shapes, and played 20 questions using yes and no answers. Losing things is a universally shared experience for all ages.

Step 6: Specific Learning Activities and Tasks: Students will ask and answer yes/no questions, work in groups of four and in pairs. They will work independently, role-play Frog and Toad to figure out attributes of buttons, and share results with the whole class for closure.

Step 7: Identify the Teaching Strategies Used: Read story aloud and model on flannel board; generate a word list and model the sorting activity. Lead guided practice and be available to help children as needed.

Step 8: Specify requirements for the learning environment: Students will learn in a classroom setting, and work in pairs and small groups. Teacher will select buddies for children with special needs and provide extra practice time to accommodate individual learning needs. Materials needed include *Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel, flannel board, and buttons of various colors, shapes and sizes.

Step 9: Evaluate the effectiveness of this lesson: Could students successfully identify buttons by their attributes? Was 30 minutes long enough/not long enough to complete lesson within the students' attention span? Was the sorting too difficult? If so, reduce the number of attributes and/or objects. If task was too simple, introduce the 2-circle Venn Diagram for sorting.