

Math for Peanuts

Objective

Students will use peanuts in estimation and graphing activities. Students will create art with peanut shells. Students will play games with peanuts.

Procedures

PREPARATIONS: MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO STUDENTS IN YOUR CLASS WITH PEANUT ALLERGIES BEFORE CONDUCTING THESE ACTIVITIES.

- Copy the peanut pattern on brown and yellow construction paper and provide one for each student.
 - Students will cut out the peanut shapes.
 - Make a large peanut-shaped classroom graph with five columns.
1. Students will estimate how many peanuts (in the shell) are in a 2-pound bag, and then count the actual number by ones, fives, tens, etc.
 2. Hand out peanuts in the shell, at least one for each student. Read and discuss background information about peanuts and peanut products.
 - Students will estimate the number of peanuts (between one and five) in one of the shells and write the estimate on the yellow peanut.
 - Students will place their estimates in the appropriate column on the classroom graph.
 - Discuss the graph.
 - Students will break open their shells, count the peanuts and record the actual number on the brown paper peanut.
 - Students will place the brown peanuts next to the yellow estimates, in the appropriate columns. Discuss the graph. have students count the results. Count by twos, if appropriate. Students will find the most common number of peanuts in one shell.
 3. Make peanut butter.
 - Place 2 cups peanuts in a blender. Ask students to predict what will happen to them.
 - Turn the blender on the chop speed.
 - Let the blender run for about five minutes, stopping occasionally to scrape the sides of the blender and around the blades with a spatula. Let students look at the peanuts each time you stop. If necessary, add a small amount of vegetable oil.
 - Eat the peanut butter on crackers or celery sticks. Ask students how it is different and similar to store-bought peanut butter.
 4. Students will make animals or pictures out of the peanut shells.
 5. Each student will roll or blow a peanut as far as he or she can in three minutes.
 6. Play peanut toss to find out how far partners can toss peanuts to one another before dropping them.

Oklahoma Academic Standards

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Number & Operations: 1.1;
2.1,2,4. Data & Probability:
1.1,2

KINDERGARTEN

Number & Operations:
1.1,2,5,6. Data & Probability:
1.1,2,3

GRADE 1

Number & Operations: 2.6.
Data & Probability: 1.1,2,3

GRADE 2

Number & Operations: 1.2,3,4.
Data & Probability: 1.1,2,3,4

7. Peanut Hunt

- Hide unshelled peanuts in every possible space of the room— under cushions, in drawers, behind doors and curtains, on top of books, etc.
- Give each student a plastic cup, and send them out in search of the hidden peanuts. The players may hunt as individuals or divide up into small teams.
- After five minutes, stop the hunt and see who has the largest number of peanuts.

8. Alternative Peanut Hunt

- Chalk or tape a large circle on the floor, and scatter the peanuts inside the circle.
- Three students will step into the circle. Blindfold them and hand each a paper bag.
- On signal, students will get down on their hands and knees and grope for the peanuts.
- After three minutes, remove the blindfolds and count to see who has collected the most.

Materials

2-pound bag of peanuts in shell

brown construction paper

yellow construction paper

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Print one copy of the outline of a peanut on yellow construction paper and one on brown paper for each student.

