

The Letter Race

Introduction: Kindergarten students need repeated practice with the recognition and identification of the letters in the alphabet. This lesson provides a fun way to practice.

Grade Level and Subject: Kindergarten Reading and P.E.

TEKS: Reading – 7A
P.E. – 1A, 3A, 3B, 7A

Materials: Any objects (easy to grab and carry) that begin with the letters being studied at the time by the students; chalk; tables on which to place objects.

Resource: *201 Games for the Elementary Physical Education Program* by Jerry D. Poppen. ISBN: 0-13-042061-1

Activity: This activity will take place outdoors or in the gym. Before beginning the activity, the teacher will set up the materials needed to complete the lesson. The tables should be set up in a linear fashion. The objects needed for this lesson will be placed on the tables randomly, and a start/finish line will be drawn with chalk approximately 20-30 feet away from the tables.

Students will be placed in teams of 4-5 members. They will move to the start/finish line, and each team's members will stand one behind the other at the line. The teams should be separated with at least 2-3 feet between them.

The teacher will begin by telling the students that there are objects on the table that have the same beginning letter as the letters they have been studying. To make it easier to have several objects for this lesson, the teacher might want to have the students complete this activity by using objects that begin with certain letters and not the whole alphabet. However, it is the teacher's choice as to how many objects and letters of the alphabet to use. It is important for this activity to have objects (small enough for a kindergarten student to carry easily) that begin with at least two different letters of the alphabet. On a starting signal, the first person of each team will run to the table and choose an object that begins with the same letter as specified by the teacher. For example, the teacher will say, "When I say go, find an object that begins with the letter B." When the teacher tells the students to go, the students will run to the table and choose an object that they think begins with the letter B. After choosing the object, they will run back to their line and stand at the front of their line. Once all students are back at their line, the teacher will observe each object and discuss the initial letter of that object. The teacher will decide whether or not to award points to the team when the student chooses an object that begins with the correct letter. After all of the discussions have been completed, the students will run back and place the objects on the table (the placement of the object does not matter). They will then run back and place themselves at the end of their team's line. The second members of each team will then get a turn at running and finding a specific object. The teacher will want to choose objects that begin with another letter at this time.

Play continues in this manner until all students have had at least one chance to run to the table and choose a suitable object.

Evaluation: The teacher will discuss each student's object to determine if it does begin with the correct letter. If a student chooses an incorrect object more than once, the teacher will want to provide additional instruction to that child.



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