

Follow the Leader

Introduction: Placing items into categories is usually not a hard task for students. However, most categorization activities involve some type of pencil/paper task. This activity combines the students' abilities to categorize with cooperation and leadership. The students will enjoy it.

Grade Level and Subject: 3rd Grade Reading and P.E.

TEKS: Reading – 1A, 3B, 9G
P.E. – 1A, 1C, 2B, 3A, 3B, 7A, 7C

Materials: CD player, music CDs

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

Activity: In the classroom, the teacher will need to teach categorization. The students should have some practice with categorization before attempting this activity.

During class, the teacher needs to write the following categories on the board: Locomotion, Exercise, and Dance. With careful discussion, the teacher should have the students develop examples of each of these categories. For example, walk, run, jump, hop, etc. fall under the category of Locomotion. Jumping jacks, touching toes, and twists all fall under the category of Exercise. The Bump, the Swim, and the Bunny Hop are all different types of Dances. The students should generate a long list of examples for each category.

Once the list is completed, the teacher should take the students outside. The teacher will also take a CD player and appropriate music CDs. The students should be evenly divided into groups of five or six and should stand in single file lines scattered around the playground. The person in the front of each line will be the leader of that line.

The teacher will begin the activity by starting the music and calling out one of the three categories of movement listed above. The leader of each line will then lead his or her line in one of the activities given for the called category. For example, if the teacher calls out "Exercise," the leader of each line will lead his or her line in whichever exercise he or she chooses from the list generated in the classroom. The activity should only last for about one minute, with the teacher giving some type of signal when it is time to stop the activity. When that particular activity is done, the leader of each line will move to the back of the line, and the next person will become the leader. Game play continues in this manner until all students have had a chance to lead his or her line in one of the categories.

Evaluation: The teacher will monitor all activity. The teacher will also help the students generate the list of categories.



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