

What's In the Bag? An Observation Lab



Purpose

How good are your skills of observation and communication? In this lab, the class will be divided into groups and the group members will reach into a paper bag and feel an unknown object, there are several in the bag, and describe the object to the other group members. Each group member will repeat the process until all objects have been described. At the end, group members will compare their descriptions and guesses of the objects. This can also be modified to be a short filler activity.

Assessed GPS

SCSh1, SCSh4

Procedure

1. Divide into groups.
2. At each lab station there is a paper bag filled with objects. Do not look into it!
3. The first lab member should reach into the bag while looking away and describe to the teammates what they feel. The more descriptive you are, the easier it will be for your lab mates to guess what the object is.
4. When you are finished describing the object, pull it out of the bag. Did your guesses match what the object really is? How good was your description?

Materials

At each lab station:

- One paper bag previously filled with several objects of varying texture, size, etc
- Student data sheet (attached)

Discussion Questions

Ask the teammates how well each person described their object. After the object was removed from the bag, how could the person have done a better job of describing the object? What did they say that really made it clear what the object was?

Approximate Time

45 minutes or less

Method of Assessment

There is no formal method of assessment. Students will be assessed as they individually describe objects and then remove them from the bag and see how accurate they were. Group discussion will allow for peer feedback on how their description could have been more accurate. This will probably occur naturally, especially if it is made into a class competition.

Student Data Page- What's in the Bag?

Name: _____

Group #: _____

Object 1:

Describe your observations:

What is the object?

Object 2:

Describe your observations:

What is the object?

Object 3:

Describe your observations:

What is the object?

Object 4:

Describe your observations:

What is the object?

Object 5:

Describe your observations:

What is the object?

Object 6:

Describe your observations:

What is the object?