

Activity Name: Mystery Boxes

Activity Description:

- Anticipatory Set: Use trifold with examples to explain how to use descriptor words to describe objects. The students will gather around the trifold and touch each example on it. The teachers will then explain why the descriptor word written for each example is an appropriate adjective to talk about the object.
- The students will then each be given a graphic organizer and four to five bags containing the mystery objects.
- The students will then be allowed to put their hands into each bag one at a time to feel the mystery object inside. They will then write (or draw, depending on their age) adjective words/pictures to describe how the object feels.
- After 3-4 minutes or when the students have all completed the sheet, the teachers will then...
Pre-K-2: ask the students to voluntarily share what they have wrote/drawn on their papers.
- Grades 3 and above: ask the students to categorize the bags based on the descriptions that they wrote. The teachers will then ask the students how they categorized their items (What made you put _____ in this category

Suggested Grade Level / Age Range:

Adaptations made for grades PreK-2 and 3-5

Science Content Covered (just provide keywords - *example - heat, light, energy*):

Description and categorizing

Time needed to complete the activity:

About 7-10 minutes

Materials Required (per student):

- Material Bags (5)
- Markers to share
- Graphic Organizer- to draw/describe objects (1 per student)
- Trifold poster with examples (sandpaper, fur fabric, silk, rock)
- Sandpaper- 1 3X3in squares
- Playdough- 1 tub
- Stuffed animal- small, 1

- 1 Block
- 1 spoon
- 1 pine cone
- 1 apple
- 1 corn husk
- 1 handful cooked batch of pasta
- 1 roll of paper towels to share

Directions as well as Activity Success Tips for Parents and Teachers:

PreK-Grade 2: Given a short demonstration about describing objects and four to five bags containing mystery items (sand paper, playdough, stuffed animal, block, cooked pasta), the students will use their hands to reach into the bags one at time and draw or write how they would describe each object on the organizer given. The students will be able to generate at least one descriptor per item. The teachers will then have a group discussion with the students about what they think was in each bag.

Grade 3 and above: Given a short demonstration about describing objects and four to five bags containing mystery items (Metal spoon, pine cone, apple, pasta, and corn husk), the students will use their hands to reach into the bags one at time and write how they would describe each object on the organizer given. The students will be able to generate at least two descriptors per item. The students will then use these descriptors to categorize the items in each bag based on how they feel. The teachers will then have a group discussion with the students about what they think was in each bag.

Possible follow-up, extension activities or ideas for children and parents to explore (with references or urls):

<http://www.education.com/activity/sorting-categorizing/> - working more with categorizing

http://thinkingtolearn.com/buildingthinkingskills_level1_s_toc.htm -working more with description.

Safety comments / considerations:

Make sure that children use the paper towels to wipe off their hands after touching the objects. It would also be a good idea to have hand sanitizer and/or wipes there.

So we can make sure your organization gets credit for your participation and we refer people accurately to your organization:

Your Organization's Official Contact Person name & Title: **Christine Royce, Associate Professor Shippensburg University**

Your Organizations Web Site: **www.ship.edu**

Your Organization's Official Contact Person Phone #: **717-477-1681**

Your Organization's Official Contact Person e-mail: **caroyc@ship.edu**