



CURIOUS GEORGE: SORT IT OUT!

Lesson Plan

During this lesson, children explore the following math concepts:

- Each object has certain attributes.
- Objects can be classified by their common attributes.

As children go through the activities, they will be using the following science skills:

- Asking questions
- Planning and conducting experiments
- Making predictions
- Experimenting
- Testing and retesting
- Making and sharing observations

Materials

- Collage materials
- Glue
- Masking tape
- Paper
- Paper plates, containers, or cups; paper or plastic deli or take-out platters with dividers
- Sets of small objects to sort (e.g., multicolored counting cubes, coins, beads, buttons, toy animals or cars)

Directions

I. Watch the *Curious George* video, “Dog Show.”

Explain to students that in the video, Curious George has gone to a Dog Show and has invited many of the dogs home. When chaos ensues, Curious George decides to sort

the dogs according to certain characteristics. As children watch, ask if they can figure out how many dogs have followed George home.

2. Group by a common attribute.

- Display multicolored cubes or counters, or coins (pennies, nickels, and dimes).
- Ask children to describe the materials, and then ask: *How do you think Curious George might sort these objects?*
- Discuss children’s ideas and then sort the objects as children have suggested.
- Display the variety of objects you have brought. Point out that these objects can be sorted in many different ways.
- Ask students to describe the objects in the collection—for example, beads that are big, little, rounds, square, red, yellow, etc.
- Write children’s responses on the whiteboard or poster paper. Use this attribute list as a resource and ask students to suggest ways to sort the collection.
- Emphasize that there is no one correct method. These are all good ways to group or sort.

3. Play “Guess My Rule” game.

- Have students watch as you select objects from the collection that share an attribute (perhaps one that the students have not yet used).
- Challenge students to “guess” or figure out your sorting rule.
- After playing several rounds, invite student volunteers to lead the game.

4. Play “Mystery Object” game.

- Place a set of objects in front of a small group of children.
- Ask a player to choose one as a mystery object and hide it behind his or her back.
- Others will ask “yes or no” questions, such as: *Is it blue? Does it have wheels?*
- With each “no” answer, players remove all the objects that cannot be the chosen object until they solve the mystery.

5. Introduce sorting circles, mats, or containers, and labels.

- Introduce sorting circles, mats, or containers such as box tops, paper plates, or deli platters with dividers.
- Help children determine how to label and place each group of objects on the mats or containers.
 - Labels might include “Little Buttons with 2 Holes,” “Big Buttons with 4 Holes,” and so on.

6. Complete “All Sorts of Dogs” handout.

- Distribute the “All Sorts of Dogs” handout.
- Have children cut out the dog cards.
- Give directions, focusing on different attributes of the dogs. For example, you could say: *Hold up a big dog. Hold up a dog without spots.* Then ask: *Is everyone holding up the same dog as you are? Why or why not?*
- Have children choose a way to sort the dog pictures. Then have them share their reasoning.

Extend with Games

Invite children to play “Everything Must Go” at

http://pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/games/everything_must_go/everything_must_go.html.

In this game, children help Curious George clean up his room by sorting out clothes, toys, and books. As they continue to play, they will be asked to recycle, compost, or donate the items after they have sorted them.

For Curious George games designed for classroom whiteboard use, visit

<http://pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/busyday/teachers.html>.

Extend with Books

Encourage students to use these books as they continue to learn about sorting.

Curious George: The Dog Show by H.A. Rey (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2006)

When Curious George has to figure out a way to sort all the dogs he brought home from the Dog Show.

Curious George: Librarian for a Day by H. A. Rey (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012)

When Curious George decides to help organize the library, he sorts the books by color, size, and finally by subject.

Grandma’s Button Box by Linda William Aber (Kane Press, 2002)

When she spills her grandmother’s button box, Kelly and her cousins try to sort them by size, color, and shape.

Hannah’s Collections by Marthe Jocelyn (Tundra Books, 2004)

Hannah loves to gather things and sort them by size, shape, and color. Which of her favorite collections should she bring to class?

Sort It Out! by Barbara Mariconda (Sylvan Dell, 2008)

A little rat named Packy must sort through his collection of trinkets so he can put them away.

Sorting (Math Matters) by Henry Arthur Pluckrose (Children's Press, 1995)

Simple, colorful photographs about everyday items help teach about sorting.



CURIOUS GEORGE is a production of Imagine Entertainment, WGBH Boston, and Universal 1440 Entertainment, LLC. Executive producers are Ron Howard (Imagine), Brian Grazer (Imagine), Ellen Cockrill (Universal), Carol Greenwald (WGBH), Dorothea Gillim (WGBH), Jon Shapiro and David Kirschner. Curious George and related characters, created by Margret and H.A. Rey are copyrighted and trademarked by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and used under license. Licensed by Universal Studios Licensing LLC. Television series: ©2014. Universal Studios. All Rights Reserved. The PBS KIDS logo is a registered mark of PBS and is used with permission. *Proud Sponsors of Curious George* on PBS KIDS* are Stride Rite Children's Group, LLC., ABCmouse.com, and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. FOR PROMOTIONAL USE ONLY.*