



CURIOUS GEORGE: TOOL TIME

Lesson Plan

During this lesson, children explore the following STEM concepts:

- Tools are objects or materials that people use to help them do work.
- Tools may be made from naturally occurring objects and materials or from human-designed ones.
- The form or design of a tool is related to its function.
- Tools can be grouped or categorized according to the people who use them in their jobs.

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

- Asking questions
- Sharing observations
- Categorizing objects

Materials

- “Curious George’s Tool Time” cards (PDF)
- Real or toy tools used by people to do different jobs:
 - Fire Fighters (hose)
 - Doctors (stethoscope, microscope, ear scope)
 - Campers (mallet, flashlight, compass)
 - Builders (measuring tape, scissors, wrench, screwdriver)
 - Artists (brushes, paint stirrers)
 - Gardeners (rake, hoe, spade, watering can)

(Note: if possible, supply real tools)

Preparation

- Arrange the various tools on a table or sheet so they can be easily seen. Do *not* arrange them in any order.
- Make copies of the “Curious George Tool Time” pictures. Then cut out each picture to make a deck of cards.

Directions

1. Introduce the word “tool” (an object or material that people use to help them do work).

- Invite children to look at and handle the tools you have displayed.
- Engage children in a conversation about the tools by asking questions such as, *Have you ever seen this tool before? How have you seen it used?*
- Help children think about the connection between the form of a tool (its design) and how it is related to its function. Ask questions such as, *Why do you think the watering can has a spout? How does the shape and size of the brush help us use it for painting?*

2. Watch the Curious George video, “Camping with Hundley.”

Before you watch, you may want to provide some background information. George has gone camping with the Doorman and Hundley, the dog who lives in George’s apartment lobby. When a storm knocks out the electric power, George has to use tools to build a shelter (a lean-to), start a fire, and cook food. Ask children to watch for the different tools George uses as he does these camping chores.

3. Talk about the video.

As children watch, help them notice the tools George uses to build the lean-to (wood sticks for pegs; a mallet to bang them in) and to start a fire (a lighter).

- Have children to think about form and function by asking questions such as, *How does the size and shape of a wooden stick make it good for pushing into the ground? How does the shape of the mallet make it good for hitting pegs?*
- Wrap up the discussion by telling children that in the video George used tools for camping. People use many different tools and sometimes people use special tools for their jobs.

4. Curious George’s Tool Time!

- Refer back to the tools you have on display. Challenge children to think of jobs where people use these tools.
- After exploring the tools, show children the deck of “Curious George Tool Time” cards.
 - Ask a student to pick a Curious George Tool Time card. Ask, *What job is Curious George dressed for? What kinds of things does a _____ do?* (For example, a doctor gives shots, examines your ears; a gardener plants seeds, and so on.)

- Next, ask the student to pick *one* tool that Curious George would need to do that job. Have the student name the tool and describe how George would use it or how it would help him to do his job.
- As students take turns picking up cards and tools, help them sort the tools into different piles according to who uses it. At the end, review the tools that people use in each job.

5. Choose a future career.

Have students draw pictures of what they would like to be when they grow up. Ask them to think of and draw a tool they will use in that job. Help students write a caption for the picture describing how they will use the tool and how it will help them do work. Congratulate students on their dreams for the future!

Extend with Games

Children may enjoy helping George to build a robot in the game “Build a Bot” at http://pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/games/build_a_bot/build_a_bot.html.

The robot uses different tools to do different tasks.

Extend with Books

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

Curious George Tool Time by H. A. Rey (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013)

There are lots of things to build and fix, all with George’s handy red toolbox.

Tools by Ann Morris and Ken Heyman. (Harper Collins 1998)

Photographs show how different tools are used around the world.

Tools Rule by Aaron Meshon (Atheneum, 2014)

Watch as a team of tools help build a shed.



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