

Describing Physical Properties

3rd Grade

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Benchmarks & Objective:

- SI-5: Record and organize observations using tables, graphs and a journal

Materials:

- Object set 1
 - Kool-Aid (same color as jello)
 - Watery Jell-O
- Object set 2
 - Vanilla pudding
 - Corn starch/ water mix
- Object set 3
 - Marshmallow crème
 - Flubber (borax and glue)
- Object set 4
 - Two crayons of different color
- Object set 5
 - Two pencils of different length
- 6 Dixie cups
- Science journals

Target Concept:

To practice describing objects, recording observations, and communicating to others.

Initial Introduction:

You should tell the students that objects can be described using their physical properties (e.g. color, length, width, hardness etc.).

Procedure:

Day One

1. Break-up class into 5 groups
2. Give each group one of the five object sets
3. Have each group record their observations of the sets in their journals
 - a. Ask them to come up with 2-3 ways the objects are the same and 2-3 ways the objects are different
4. Once the groups are done rotate the object sets and repeat step 3
5. Continue until every group has seen each object set

Target Observations:

- There are various ways to describe something (e.g. by color, size, body type etc.).

Final Target Concept:

They should have learned that objects can be described in a number of ways.

Summary & Discussion:

Discuss with the students that they need to be able to describe objects using many different physical properties and that beyond the simple descriptions there are many more conspicuous ways of describing an object.