

Building Background Knowledge: Famous Americans Math Activities

Students participate in math and science activities that relate to Famous Americans.

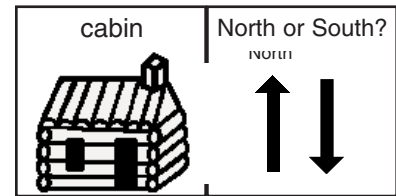
Select one of the following:

_____ Lincoln Log Cabin

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_____ North or South?

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Objectives

1. Students will focus on, recognize, or identify each of the ten vocabulary words:
☆ eight ☆ first ☆ his ☆ home ☆ man ☆ people ☆ read ☆ strong ☆ work ☆ year
2. Students will follow LITTLEmack directions to participate in poems, songs, and finger plays.
3. Students will recognize and respond to their photo and their name.
4. Students will complete an art project using arts-and-crafts supplies.
5. Students will describe and share their learning from experiences in their school and community.

Lincoln Log Cabin Activity

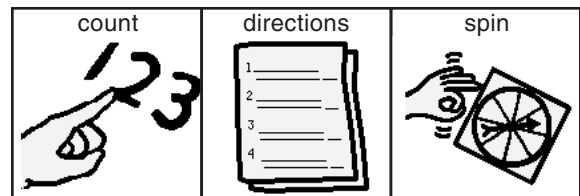
Materials

- ☆ Empty milk cartons, one per student
- ☆ Chocolate frosting (white frosting, cream cheese, or peanut butter will work)
- ☆ Pretzel sticks
- ☆ Paper plates, one per student
- ☆ Craft sticks or table knives, one per student
- ☆ Number cards (1-6)
- ☆ All-Turn-It® spinner
- ☆ Switch
- ☆ LITTLE Step-by-Step communicator

Getting Ready

1. Prepare the following picture/symbol:

- ✓ count
- ✓ directions
- ✓ spin



2. Make sure that the chocolate frosting is soft. Put some frosting in a bowl for each student. Put a craft stick or table knife in each bowl.
3. Plug a switch with the “spin” picture/symbol into the All-Turn-It® spinner. Place the dice overlay on the All-Turn-It® spinner.
4. Record the following script on a LITTLE Step-by-Step communicator. Place the “directions” picture/symbol on the LITTLE Step-by-Step communicator.

- “We’ve been studying about Abraham Lincoln.”
- “Do you remember that he grew up in a log cabin?”
- “Today we’re going to make log cabins using milk cartons, frosting, and pretzels.”
- “First we’re going to spread frosting on our milk carton!”
- “Then we’re going to take turns spinning for a number.”
- “We’ll count out that many pretzels and stick them on our cabins.”
- “These will be fun to take home and hang on the wall.”

5. Record a sequence of numbers from one through six on a LITTLE Step-by-Step communicator. Place the “count” picture/symbol on the LITTLE Step-by-Step communicator.



Activity

1. Students use the LITTLE Step-by-Step communicator with the “directions” picture/symbol to tell the other students about the log cabins they will be making.
2. Students use the craft stick or knife to cover their milk carton in frosting.
3. Students use the All-Turn-It® spinner to select a number of pretzels that they will put on their cabins.
4. Students use the LITTLE Step-by-Step communicator with the “count” picture/symbol to lead the students in counting out the right number of pretzels.
5. Students follow directions to count out the right amount of pretzels and put them on their cabins as the teacher shows the number card for each number.
6. Students continue building their cabins until the entire milk carton is covered in pretzels.



North or South?

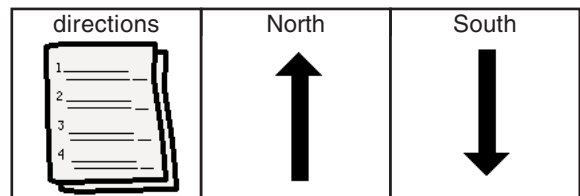
Materials

- ☆ Tagboard
- ☆ North or South Picture Card pages
- ☆ Display tool
- ☆ Poster board, one large white sheet
- ☆ LITTLE Step-by-Step communicator
- ☆ LITTLEmack communicators (2)

Getting Ready

1. Prepare the following pictures/symbols:

- ✓ directions
- ✓ north
- ✓ south



2. Prepare the picture cards. Cut them out. Laminate them for durability.

3. Prepare the North/South outdoor scene. On the poster board, draw a river going directly through the middle of the poster board, the long way. With a thick black marker, label the area above the river North, and the area below the river South. Add some details such as trees and sky to make it look like an outdoors scene.

4. Place the picture cards on display.

5. On a LITTLE Step-by-Step communicator, record the following script. Place the “directions” picture/symbol on the LITTLE Step-by-Step communicator.

- “Abraham Lincoln was the president during the time when there was fighting going on between the North and the South.”
- “Today we are going to practice finding where the North and South parts of a place are.”
- “When it’s your turn, choose something to place on the river scene.”
- “You decide if you want to put it North or South of the river.”
- “Tell everybody where you’re going to put it, and then place it there.”
- “Who wants to go first?”
- “These will be fun to take home and hang on the wall.”

tree



cabin



lake



rock



mountains



tent



bear



deer



flower



skunk



squirrel



rabbit



6. On the two LITTLEmack communicators, place the "north" and "south" pictures/symbols. On the "north" device record, "I think this should go north of the river" and on the "south" device record, "I think this should go south of the river."

Activity

1. Students use the LITTLE Step-by-Step communicator with the "directions" picture/symbol to give activity directions to the other students.
2. Students take turns selecting a picture card.
3. Students use the LITTLEmack communicators to tell the other students which side of the river they are going to put their card on, the north or the south side.
4. Students take their picture and place it on the side they selected, either north of the river or south of the river.

Supporting Literature

- ☆ *America: A Patriotic Primer* by Lynne V. Cheney
- ☆ *We the Kids* by David Catrow
- ☆ *George Washington's Breakfast* by Jean Fritz
- ☆ *A Picture Book of George Washington* by David Adler
- ☆ *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport
- ☆ *Young Martin Luther King* by Allan Eitzen
- ☆ *American Presidents Coloring Book* by Peter F. Copeland

Web Site Links for additional resources

- ☆ www.enchantedlearning.com
- ☆ www.alphabet-soup.net/hol/president.html
- ☆ www.atozteacherstuff.com/lessons/BeingTreatedEqually.shtml