

Grade: 2

Topic: Observation and Data Collection

Title: *Hey, You're Different!*

Objective:

Students will use data gathered through observation to create a graph to display the diversity of traits within the class.

Standard:

2.4.6 Observe and explain that plants and animals need water and food, and plants need light.

Materials:

Lab Sheet (for each student)

Place designated for measuring height with a mark at 48 inches (for entire class to use).

T-Chart created on the overhead or chalkboard with two columns “fits” and “doesn’t fit”.

Activity:

1. Choose 4 children to send to one side of the classroom who all have a similar trait (i.e. blonde hair). Choose another 4 children to send to the other side of the classroom with a different trait. (i.e. brown hair).
2. Students are to begin asking questions about why the students have been separated. Prompt as needed. As students make suggestions, fill in the T-Chart.
3. Once students figure out that you are looking at traits while filling in data, have the other students return to their seats and ask students to describe ways that the two groups are alike and how they are different.
4. Ask the students: Do we look alike? What are some ways we look different?
5. What are some of the ways we look different?
6. Ask students, “Do we look more like each other or more like other animals?”
7. Explain to students that we inherit traits, such as an eye color, hair color, etc. from our parents.

Collecting data:

- I. Inform students that they are going to collect data on the different external features of the students in the class.
- II. Distribute Lab Sheets to each student and show students where and how to measure the height of students.
- III. Allow students time to complete their survey of the class. (Collect data as a whole class or individually.)
- IV. When all of the data has been collected, have students count up the tally marks next to each feature and write down the total next to the characteristic. Ask

students: “Do you all have the same features? What are some ways you found that we are different?”

- V. Discuss with the class the results of the data collection and any problems students encountered when collecting the data.
- VI. Have students look at their data and write down two statements that are based on their data on the Lab Sheet. Make sure students share their ideas with the class and discuss any discrepancies.

Conclusion:

After students collect their data, have students write a response to the following questions:

- How many people in the class had (insert characteristic)?
- Did you run into any difficulties collecting data?
- Are there other external features that we could test? What might they be?

Discuss student responses.

Source: Lesson plan is adapted from Grade 2 Indiana Academics Standards Resource Guide www.doe.state.in.us

Assessment:(none noted)