

Real Life Activities: Overview of the Lesson

Introduction

- Real-life activities used in the classroom expose children to math in their everyday world.

Review Previous Work

- Using picture books helps students see how math is used every day.
- Students used math journals to discuss math topics they had learned previously.
- The concepts they discussed included fractions, layering and measuring.

Group Work

- Using a recipe is one way to use math in a real-life context.
- Adjusting recipes allows students to work with fractions.
- Fractions can also be discussed when cutting a cake.

Solving Problems with Students

- As students work together in small groups teachers can observe difficulties that students have.
- Individual problems can be solved one-on-one.
- Problems that many students have can be addressed in whole class discussions.

Fractions: A Mini-Lesson

- One group tried to solve the following multiplication problem:

$$\frac{2}{3} \cdot 4$$

- As a whole class the problem was discussed and strategies were shared.
- By changing the problem to addition, the students were better able to understand and reach a solution:

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{2}{3} + \frac{2}{3} + \frac{2}{3} = \frac{8}{3}$$

Expanding the Activity

- Giving each group a different recipe increases the variety of problems students can solve.
- Some recipes serve 4 to 5 others 6 to 8 and others 10.
- Sharing their adjusted recipes with the class allows them to discuss the math concepts involved.

Cooking: A Real-Life Experience

- The class talked about safety rules such as using a fire extinguisher, using potholders, and keeping hair and flammables away from fire.
- Math is clearly used in cooking when discussing the use of standard and non-standard measuring tools.

Assessment

- Having students write in math journals is one means of assessment.
- Students explain how they see mathematics in the real world.
- As they verbalize their learning, they must organize their thoughts and clarify their thinking.
- Sharing journals with the class allows students to learn from each other.