

Follow the Leader



Time:	5 minutes
Objective:	Students will use observational skills to determine who the leader might be.
Procedures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One student is selected to leave the room. 2. Another student is selected as the designated leader. 3. The leader starts a movement such as patting knees, clapping, or snapping, etc. The leader will keep changing motions whenever they want to. Everyone else will follow the leader. 4. The student who left the room is invited back in and tries to figure out who the leader is.



TIPS FOR Success:

This fun activity can to be used if there are a few minutes left in the class period or school day. It also can be used to get the students attention and get them back on task.

I'm Going on a Trip



Time:	10-15 minutes
Objective:	Students will learn each other's names and something about their classmates.
Procedures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sit in a circle. 2. The first person says, "My name is _____ and I am going on a trip to _____ and I am taking _____." 3. The next person says, "My name is _____ and I am going on a trip to (the place that was named before) with (the first person). We are going to take (what was mentioned before) and _____." 4. The story grows as it goes around the circle. 5. An option: Have each person go to a different place and take something that begins with his or her first initial. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. "My name is Nadia, I'm going to Nebraska, and I'm going to take a newspaper." b. The next person says, "My name is Finn and I'm going to France and I am going to take food. I am traveling with Nadia who is going to Nebraska who is taking a newspaper." c. Continue adding one by one around the circle.



TIPS FOR Success:

It might help younger students focus if you have the spotlighted student hold an object when it is his/her turn.

Pose Like a Statue



Time:	5 minutes
Objective:	Students will participate in a fun and quiet game.
Procedures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students will stand near their desks.2. Ask one student, who is being especially quiet, to be "it."3. The student then comes to the front of the room and waits while the rest of the class remains quietly standing near their desks. Those students can move their body around, but should remain in one spot.4. When the student who is "it" decides, they whisper "statue," and the rest of the class freezes.5. The student then looks around to see who has the best pose and is holding the most still and selects that class member to be "it" next.6. Play continues as long as you'd like it to go.

 **TIPS FOR Success:** | *This is a perfect activity to calm students down after an assembly or recess.*

Riddle Poems



Time: 5 Minutes

Objective: Students will listen to the following poems and try to determine what classroom items they refer to.

Procedures:

1. Read the following riddle poems to students and ask them to point to the item in the classroom when they know what it is.

I have two hands. I have a face. My hands go round and round.
I have the numbers 1-12 instead of the smiles and frowns.
Find me in the classroom.

Answer: Clock

I have four legs. I'm made from a tree.
You stuff your books inside of me.
Find me in the classroom.

Answer: Desk

I'm a yellow fellow with a pointed head. As thin as thin
can be.
But I leave a trail on a blank white page when someone
writes with me.

Answer: Pencil

I'm covered with lines and I'm most often white.
I'm handy when you want to write.

Answer: Paper

I take your books from home to school. I'm red or
blue or green or black.
You zip my zippers here and there. I'm always riding
piggyback.

Answer: Backpack

I'm rainbow colors like red and blue.
When you draw or color, I'm what you use.

Answer: Crayon

Over my head and under my feet,
The rope twirls around, as I jump to the beat.
What am I doing?

Answer: Jumping rope

I'm "it." I chase you – one, two, three.
I try to catch the friends I see.
What am I doing?

Answer: Playing tag

I climb the ladder then I sit down.
Whoosh! I'm swishing to the ground!

Answer: Slide



TIPS FOR Success:

Another option is to have students answer silently by writing their answers down. You can then have them check their own paper as you read the answers back.

My Favorite Corner



Time:	15 minutes
Objective:	Students will move around the room by determining their preferences in different categories.
Procedures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The teacher will designate different sections of the room as corner A, corner B, corner C, and corner D. 2. The teacher will then ask students to determine their favorite option and go to the corresponding corner. 3. Allow students to mingle in the corner for a brief time to help them build friendships with other students.
Example:	<p>The topic is favorite food. The teacher will assign corner A as pepperoni pizza, corner B as macaroni and cheese, corner C as spaghetti, and corner D as hot dogs.</p> <p>The students then will migrate to the corner where their food preference is. Give students a minute or two to discuss and build friendships with other students in their corner.</p> <p>Other examples:</p> <p>Favorite season: Corner A – Winter, corner B – Spring, corner C – Summer, Corner D – Fall</p> <p>Favorite school subject: Corner A – Art, Corner B – Science, Corner C – History, Corner D – Other</p> <p>Number of Family Members: Corner A – 3 or less, corner B – 4-5, Corner C – 6-8, corner D – 9 or more</p> <p>Favorite ice cream: Corner A – chocolate, Corner B – vanilla, Corner C – Cookie dough, Corner D – other</p> <p>Languages students can speak: Corner A – English only, Corner B – English and Spanish, Corner C – English and French, Corner D – English and other</p> <p>Pets owned by students: Corner A – no pets, Corner B – dog, Corner C – cat, Corner D – other</p> <p>Favorite music: Corner A – rock, Corner B – pop, Corner C – country, Corner D – other.</p>



TIPS FOR Success:

You may want to consider writing the corner options on the board so you don't have to repeat them.

Another tip: Inform students that even if their top favorite is not listed in each category, they should still go to the corner of the item they like the best out of the choices given.

Brain Teasers and Riddles



1. What is full of holes, yet holds water? *A sponge*
2. What is bought by the yard, yet worn by the foot? *Carpet*
3. What is the longest word in the English language? *Smiles. There is a mile between the first and last letter.*
4. If eight birds are on a roof and you shoot at one, how many remain? *None. They all fly away.*
5. Why can't it rain for two days continually? *Because there is always a night in between.*
6. What speaks every language? *An echo*
7. Why is a nose in the middle of a face? *Because it is the scenter.*
8. What table is completely without legs? *A time-table*
9. What is the difference between a jeweller and a jailer? *One sells watches, the other watches cells.*
10. What is black and white and read all over? *A newspaper.*
11. Can a man living in Chicago be buried west of the Mississippi? *No. He is still alive.*
12. How far can a dog run into the woods? *Halfway. The other half he is running out.*
13. A farmer had seventeen sheep. All but nine died. How many did he have left? *Nine.*
14. A man has two coins in his hand. The two coins total thirty cents. One is not a nickel. What are the two coins? *A nickel and a quarter. (The other is a nickel.)*
15. Why is Ireland the wealthiest country? *Because its capital is always Dublin.*

16. If a telephone and a piece of paper had a race, who would always win? *The telephone, since the paper will always remain stationary.*
17. Why should fish be well-educated? *They are found in schools.*
18. Which takes the least amount of time to get ready for a trip: An elephant or a rooster? *The rooster... He only takes his comb, but the elephant has to take a whole trunk.*
19. Do they have a Fourth of July in England? *Yes. (But it is not a holiday.)*
20. Take two apples from three apples. What have you got? *Two apples.*
21. Four men can build four boats in four days. How long will it take one man to build one boat? *Four days. (Four men building four boats is the same as one man working sixteen days.)*
22. Can you measure out exactly two gallons of water using only two unmarked containers? One of the containers will hold eight gallons and the other will hold five gallons. *Pour five gallons into the eight gallon can. Then repeat this until the eight gallon can is full. (Two gallons remain in the five gallon can.)*

Minute Mysteries



Minute Mysteries are stories that are told within a minute and then require the listeners to solve a mystery. Students generate questions that can be answered with a simple “yes” or “no” in order to solve the mystery. These stories are fun and teach children to use critical thinking skills while they sort through the information to work out the answer.

1. A cowboy left town on Tuesday and was gone three days, coming back on Tuesday.
Q. How is that possible?
A. His horse was named Tuesday.
2. A man is found dead in a cabin in the ocean.
Q. What could have happened?
A. The man is in the cabin of an airplane that crashed into the ocean.
3. A person lived on the 15th floor of a high-rise building. Everyday he got into the elevator, rode down to the lobby and went to work. Every evening he came home from work, took the elevator to the 13th floor and walked up the stairs to his apartment.
Q. Why?
A. The person is very short and can only reach the elevator button to the 13th floor.
4. A man was lonely and wanted a talking parrot to keep him company. He went to the pet shop and found a beautiful bird that was for sale at a bargain price. He asked the shop owner if the bird could be trained to talk. The owner said, *“This bird is absolutely guaranteed to repeat everything it hears.”* So the man bought the bird and took it home. But two weeks later he returned to the shop, demanding his money back, saying, *“The bird refused to talk.”* The shop owner said, *“I stand by my guarantee and will not give your money back.”*
Q. How could he say that, considering the bird wouldn’t talk?
A. The parrot was deaf.

Mind Benders



1. The Shopping Trip

One day last week my brother went to town with only \$10 in his pocket, but returned in the evening with \$20.

He bought a pair of shoes at a sporting goods store and some meat at the meat market. He also had his eyes examined. It so happens that my brother gets paid every Thursday by check and the banks in this town are open on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday only. The eye doctor is not in his office on Saturday and there is no market on Thursday and Friday. What day did my brother go to town?

2. The Chess Tournament Dilemma

Four men named P.F. Smith, C.J. Smith, Reynolds, and Fellows played in a chess tournament.

The Smiths were the famous Smith brothers, twins who played opposite ends on the Princeton football team.

Reynolds surprised everyone when he defeated Fellows.

The man who finished third said graciously to the winner at the conclusion of the matches, "I've heard a great deal about you and I am happy to meet you. May I congratulate you?"

The runner-up was unable to walk, having had infantile paralysis when he was four years old. He had never married, but had lived a sheltered life with his widowed mother, making chess his chief diversion.

P.F. Smith sometimes talked too much. He had disgraced himself when he was an usher at Fellow's wedding by making the bride's mother late for the wedding.

In what order did the men finish the chess tournament?

3. The Artisans

There are three men named James, John, and Jake. Each of them work two of the following jobs: chauffeur, electrician, musician, painter, gardener, and barber. Use the following facts to figure out which two jobs each man has.

1. The chauffeur offended the musician by laughing at his long hair.
2. Both the musician and the gardener used to go fishing with James.
3. The painter had the electrician wire his new house.
4. The chauffeur dated the painter's sister.
5. John owed the gardener \$5.00.
6. Jake beat both John and the painter at horseshoes.

4. The Stolen Antique

Three men, Mr. White, Mr. Black and Mr. Brown and their wives were entertained at the home of their friend one evening. After the departure of the guests, the host and hostess discovered that a valuable antique had been stolen. It was later discovered that one of the six guests was the thief. From the facts given, see if you can discover who it was.

1. The spouse of the thief lost money at cards that evening.
2. Because of partial paralysis of his hands and arms, Mr. Brown was unable to drive his car.
3. Mrs. Black and another female guest spent the entire evening doing a jigsaw puzzle.
4. Mr. Black accidentally spilled a drink on Mrs. White when he was introduced to her.
5. Mr. Brown gave his wife half of the money that he had won to make up for her loss.
6. Mr. Black had beaten the thief at golf that day.

Solutions to Mind Benders:

1. The Shopping Trip

My brother went to town on Tuesday.

2. Chess Tournament Dilemma

Winner: C.J. Smith

Runner-up: Reynolds

Third: Fellows

Fourth: P.F. Smith

3. The Artisans

James: barber and painter

John: musician and electrician

Jake: chauffeur and gardener

4. The Stolen Antique

Mrs. Black was the thief