



STRAWBERRIES

...you can count them!

A lesson plan for kindergartners



LESSON PLAN OVERVIEW



Purpose

To inform students that strawberries are a type of fruit with many seeds.

Subject Areas Addressed

Math, Science, Language Arts

Common Core/Essential Standards

MATH:

K.CC.3: Write numbers from 0 to 20. Represent a number of objects with a written numeral 0-20 (with 0 representing a count of no objects).

K.CC.4: Understand the relationship between numbers and quantities; connect counting to cardinality.

SCIENCE:

K.G.2.2: Explain ways people use environmental resources to meet basic needs and wants. (Ex. Land is used to grow food).

LANGUAGE ARTS:

K.1 and 2: With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in books.

Vocabulary

caps seeds strawberry

Materials Provided

Berry Chant, Flash Cards, Homemade Playdough Recipe, Strawberry Card Master

Materials Needed

BOOK: The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear, pumpkin or watermelon seeds to represent strawberry seeds on larger scale artwork, glue, number flash cards, red and green playdough, toothpicks
For center activities: red and green stamp pads; plain, white paper; crayons; markers

TEACHING STRATEGY



Preparation

COPY AND CUT “FLASH CARDS”

- Prepare homemade Playdough (see “Homemade Playdough Recipe”)
- Locate www.teachingwithpassion.com on website
- Using “Strawberry Card Master,” prepare strawberry cards. Write skill matching components you wish to address. Ex. Numeral/number set (number of strawberry seeds); Numerals/number words; Capital letters/lower case letters, etc. You may choose to laminate for reuse or print multiple individual copies. For purposes of differentiated instruction, label cards/sheets according to which one(s) you want each student to complete.

Instructions

1. Read *The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear*. Discuss and retell the story. Ask what kind of fruit was in the story. Alternate activity: Smartboard—read interactive story on Smartboard from www.teachingwithpassion.com.
2. Allow time for students to investigate clean, washed strawberries. Point out the seeds, caps, fruit and shape. Ask students how the strawberries look, smell, and feel. Record student responses on chart paper/board. Ask students to examine the seeds carefully on the strawberries. Explain to the students that strawberries are the only fruit that have seeds on the outside.
3. Sing the “Berry Chant” with students to review counting skills. Then hold up various flash cards with numbers written on them and ask students to identify each number. Review the cards with the students and tell them they will be working on strawberry activities.

Center Activities

MATH:

- Each student will choose one of the previously prepared strawberry cards, and cut it out. They will say the number on the cap of the strawberry and glue that many pumpkin seeds on the strawberry. (Pumpkin seeds are easy for students to manipulate).
- For higher level students, prepare more difficult numerals, number words or tally marks.
- Variation: provide strawberry pattern precut from heavy card stock. Students use this pattern to trace and cut out their own cards for use in this activity (exercises fine motor skills).

ART:

- Have students make the shape of a strawberry with red playdough. Add a green cap on top. Use a toothpick to add seeds by pressing into the “berry.”
- For higher level students, allow them to use alphabet cookie cutters to cut out letters they see or hear in the word “strawberry”. Using blank white paper, a red ink pad, green and black crayons, fingerprint strawberries. The fingerprint becomes the strawberry. Complete each strawberry by drawing a cap, a stem, seeds and a vine. Write the number of strawberries made.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Instructions

- Finish this activity with a taste test of strawberries.
- Discuss the senses used while tasting the strawberries.

Background Information

- The first berries from the first flowers on a strawberry plant are usually the biggest and sometimes have unusual shapes.
- Sometimes you see a berry with a “nose” or with a green “baby” strawberry connected to a big ripe one.
- The average strawberry has approximately 200 seeds.
- NC strawberries are ripe from April until early June, when most students are still in school.

Assessment

Make sure the number matches the amount of seeds glued on the strawberry.

Homemade Playdough Recipe

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup flour
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil (I used baby oil)
- 1 package unsweetened strawberry Kool-Aid
- 1/4 cup salt
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 1 cup water

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix flour, salt, cream of tartar and Kool-Aid in a medium saucepan.
2. Add water and oil. Stir over medium heat 3 to 5 minutes.
3. When mixture forms a ball in pan, remove.
4. Knead until smooth.
5. Store in a covered plastic container.

Berry Chant

One berry, two berries,
Three berries, four.
Five berries, six berries,
Seven berries—more!
Eight berries, nine berries,
Ten berries—wait!
Where are the berries that were on my plate?
(Hmm...did the big hungry bear eat them?)

1

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