

Topics: Coordinate Grids,
Problem Solving

Materials List

- ✓ Pipette Grids
- ✓ Pipette tips (in short strips and singles)
(2 colors)
- ✓ Barrier

This Activity can be used
to teach:

- Coordinate Pairs
(Common Core Math
Standards: Grade 5,
Geometry, 1&2)

Find the Fish

A Coordinate Math Game



This version of the classic game Battleship® will help your students to master coordinate systems. Easy to set-up and fun to play, this is a great enrichment activity to have available in your classroom.

Assembly

1. Each player needs two pipette grids, a selection of “fish” (pipette tips in strips of 2, 3, 4, or 5), a selection of playing pieces (loose pipette tips), and an effective barrier that will prevent their opponent from being able to see their set-up.
2. It is helpful to label the horizontal and vertical axis of each of the grids with letters on the vertical and numbers on the horizontal. In this way, students can easily find specific values (i.e.- “G5”).
3. Each player places their two grids behind their barrier. The pipette grid on the left represents the players “pond”. The player will place their selection of fish into this pond (the number of fish is flexible).
4. The pipette grid on the right represents the opponent’s pond. The player will use this pond to keep track of where they “drop the hook” and where they locate their opponent’s fish.

Playing the Game (for 2 players)

1. Players take turns calling out where they are “dropping their hook” by calling out a point on the coordinate grid (i.e.- “G5”).
2. They should mark each attempt with a pipette tip in the opponent’s pond (right-hand grid). If they find a fish, they can either use a colored pipette tip or mark it with a double-decker tip.
3. The first player to locate all of their opponent’s fish wins the game.

The Math Behind the Activity

The primary math concept of this game involves locating specific coordinate pairs on a rectangular coordinate grid. In addition, the game provides an opportunity for children to experiment with and develop different search strategies for efficiently finding known, but hidden, patterns (i.e. lengths of fish) within the grid.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=149 for more resources!)