

# RAFT IDEAS

**Topics:** Manual Dexterity,  
Counting, Material  
Properties

## Materials List

- ✓ Plastic rings (pull tabs from milk caps) (20-30)
- ✓ Optional: small box

This activity can be used to teach:

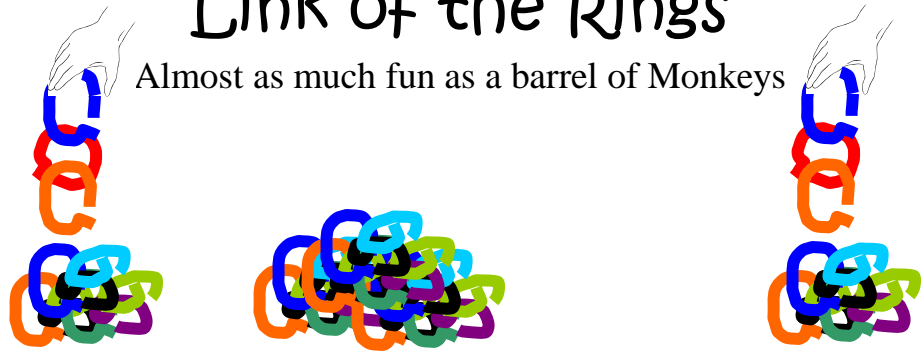
- Counting (Common Core Math Standards: Grade K, Counting and Cardinality, 1, 2, 4)
- Properties of materials (Next Generation Science Standards: Grade 2, Physical Science 1-1, 1-2)



Written by Coral Clark (RAFT)

## Link of the Rings

Almost as much fun as a barrel of Monkeys



Investigate material properties and improve manual dexterity and fine-motor skills with this fun, ring-linking challenge.

### To Do and Notice

1. Begin by dropping unlinked rings onto the playing surface, one by one, to form a pile. If desired, drop the rings into a small box.
2. Holding 1 ring in either hand, try to pick up a ring from the pile by linking it with the hand-held ring.
3. Continue linking rings in this fashion until 1 or all rings fall back to the pile.

### The Content Behind the Activity

This simple and fun activity provides opportunity for counting with 1 to 1 correspondence. It also provides manual dexterity skill practice. As students hone their skills, they also will make observations of the materials: some rings are not as strong as others; the shape of the ring matters and the pull-tab end will hold other rings better than the open end; all rings flex to a certain degree; the color variable does not indicate ring strength.

### Taking it Further

For older students, this simple physical challenge can demonstrate the scientific method. Ask students if they think they can link the same number of rings using either hand, right or left (an easily testable question). Next, students follow experimental procedure to gather data, analyze collected data, and draw conclusions.

**Web Resources** - (Visit [www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=193](http://www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=193) for more resources!)

Copyright 2015, RAFT