

# RAFT IDEAS

**Topics:** Observation  
Skills, Counting,  
Classification

## Materials List

- ✓ Transparent tube container with removable capped ends
- ✓ Base Material for “burying” treasure (sand; uncooked rice; lentils; tiny, plastic bits)
- ✓ 20-30 small treasures

This activity can be used to teach:

Common Core Math:

- Counting (Grade K, Counting & Cardinality, 1, 2, 5, 6)
- Write numbers (Grade K, Counting and Cardinality, 3)
- Describe & Classify objects (Grade K, Measurement and Data, 1 & 3)
- Describe/name/identify shapes (Grade K, Geometry, 1-3)
- Problem Solving and Reasoning (Mathematical Practices Grades K-3)

Next Generation Science:

- Properties of materials (Grade 2, Physical Science, 1-1)
- Science & Eng. Practices (Grades K-3)



# Treasure Hunt

Young Learners Love to Hunt for Buried Treasure



No need for a shovel to dig for buried treasure. This activity gives pre-school and primary school age children an opportunity to develop observation skills and encourages attention to detail.

## Assembly

1. Remove one of the ends of the container and fill to 2/3 with an appropriate base material (sand; uncooked rice; lentils; tiny, plastic bits).
2. Add 20-30 small treasures into the container. Suggested items: beads and buttons of various types, sizes, and colors; coins; sequins; tiny toys; erasers; paper clip; nuts; bolts; screws; safety pin, marbles.
3. Replace the lid on the container and shake vigorously to bury the treasures.
4. (Optional) Tape or glue ends closed to prevent spills.

## To Do and Notice

Have students hunt for treasures buried in the container by shaking and rotating the container to discover the treasures. Keep a list of objects found (either in writing or pictures) or cross off the objects found from a list provided.

## The Content Behind the Activity

All people learn in different ways. This activity appeals to both visual and tactile learners. As they rotate the container and look for the treasure in the container, young learners develop their observation skills. By classifying a set of objects into particular categories (colors, shapes, monetary values of coins, etc) young learners develop their abilities to gather and analyze data.

## Taking it Further

- Give students queries for searches such as: “What shapes can you find?” or “How many blue objects can you see in the container?” Keep the categories of object that students are searching for simple in the beginning. Increase the complexity of the search categories as children develop their observation and classification skills.
- Include treasures for different holiday themes.
- Have students tell or write a story using the objects they discover in the container.

**Web Resources** (Visit [www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=445](http://www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=445) for more resources!)

- Teacher designed math courses from the New Jersey Center for Teaching & Learning – <https://njctl.org/courses/math>