

In the Bag

Lots of things are in the bag. Can you find them?



Students use their tactile sense to find specific items without being able to see what they are doing. They learn about material properties and develop vocabulary while playing the game.

Activity Challenge

Students read, or listen, to the names of objects and reach into the bag to find them without looking.

Preparation

1. Collect 10-20 common objects.
2. Prepare index cards by writing the simple names or drawing pictures of the collected objects on the cards (e.g., “cap” or “ball”).
3. Place the corresponding objects in the bag. Adjust the number of objects and cards as needed.

To Do

1. Read the name, or identify the object, on an index card to students.
2. Students reach into the bag without looking, feel around and pull an object from the bag. If it is the correct object, they keep the index card and put the object back in the bag. If not correct, they return the object to the bag and do not keep the index card. Index cards are used for tallying points.
3. Play continues until all objects are identified and pulled from the bag.
4. The game ends when all cards have been used, all the objects have been located or time is called. The student with the most cards wins.
5. Optional: Blindfolds may be used to help student focus on their non-visual senses. A 1-minute timer can be used to limit the amount of time each player has to locate the object(s).

Guiding Questions:

1. What were the easiest, or most difficult, objects to find?
2. What were the common shapes you felt while reaching in the bag?
3. What new vocabulary words did you learn through this activity?

Materials Needed

- Large bag or equivalent
- 10-20 common objects that differ by shape, size, and texture
- Index card or equivalent
- Optional: timer and/or blindfolds

Grade Range

Pre-K

Topics/Skills

Science: Properties of materials
Language Arts: Word recognition, vocabulary development
Tactile senses

Learning Standards

NGSS: [Properties of Materials](#)
CCSS ELA: [Reading Informational Texts](#)

Duration

15-30 minutes

Prep Time

10-15 minutes

Extensions

- Try to find objects based on their specific attributes (e.g., round, soft, hard).
- Increase the number of objects for an extra challenge.
- Find other objects with similar attributes to the ones in the bag and have students call out similarities.

The Science behind the Activity

There are 4 main types of learning styles: auditory (by hearing), visual (by seeing), tactile (by feeling), and kinesthetic (by moving). Tactile and kinesthetic learners often have challenges in a traditional classroom environment because their bodies have difficulty sitting for long periods of time and they learn best when they are touching materials. This activity helps children develop their tactile and kinesthetic learning abilities and connects them with reading (the object name on the card) and problem solving. A significant percentage of young children learn best by touching and using materials.