

Seeing Double: A Nature Memory Game

Ages: Grades 1-4

Time: 15-20 minutes (combine with another activity for "Nature Games")

No. of participants: 8-10

No. of additional adults: none

Required supplies:

- 2 dish towels
- 1 tray
- 10-15 previously collected natural items from a designated location
- collection bags or containers - 1 per student
- Optional: Candy rewards (gummy worms)

Objective: To encourage students to look more closely at things surrounding them in nature. To use one's memory to collect matching objects.

Activity Instructions

1. Introduction:

- a. Today I am going to test your memory by playing a game called "Seeing Double".

2. Beginning Instructions:

- a. I am about to show you _____ items under this towel that I have just collected from this surrounding area.
- b. When I lift the towel you will have 20 seconds to get a good look at them before I cover them again.
- c. Once I cover them up, you will have 5 minutes to find and collect as many of those same items from the area around us.
- d. When 5 minutes have passed I will call you all back and we will see how many items each of you were able to duplicate or "double" correctly.

3. Main Lesson:

- a. Ready to begin? If there are no questions, lift the towel and time 20 seconds then cover the items and tell the students to go searching for a double of each item they are able to remember. Start the timer for 5 minutes.
- b. When 5 minutes are up, call the students back. Have them sit in a semi-circle around you with their collected items in their laps.
- c. Pull one of the items from under the towel out at a time. With each item try to provide some information about what it is, its function, etc.
- d. After pulling out each item stop and ask all of the students that think they found a double to hold it up.
- e. As they do this, point to each child and if they are correct say, "I'm seeing double!" if not say something like, "Great try!" or "So close!"
- f. If time allows, play again. Maybe this time you could add a twist like moving to a new location, adding more items, or changing the amount of time they have.

4. Conclusion:

- a. How many of you think that you would've noticed the things you collected today if you weren't playing this game?
- b. Challenge them to try this game with their parents or friends at home. It's great for memory and it helps you to notice things that you might otherwise not have.

Adapted from: Cornell, Joseph. *Sharing Nature with Children*. pgs. 48-49. Nevada City, California: Dawn Publications, 1998.