

Collections Connect Four

Like our "Simile Bingo" and "There Their" activities this moves from cliché (correctness) to creativity. It helps children to identify the items that are normally collected in bunches (flowers) or flocks (sheep) etc. etc. Some of these are going out of use so there will I hope be some debate about whether to alter items for their game. It also begins to provide opportunities to develop some creative new ones (e.g. bunches of fists and prides of upturned noses). We've provided some to get you going! Some of these are already in use, some of course turn up in poems and others have just been invented by teachers or children. More collections can be added by teachers and their pupils to produce their own game.

The spare grid is for handwriting your own cards if you have not the time to put them on computer or if you wish to experiment. Please share your new ideas with us by emailing them back to us, and we will insert them into the activity.

It would also be nice to have more predictable collections to add to the list for those who might like to change some of the more obscure ones.

Because the cards have pictures we have produced a double set in two colours so that you can print them straight off the computer.

Many thanks to the Tameside Ethnic Minority Achievement Team who invented a whole swathe of original collections.
Last updated 30th March 2009

The webaddress for this activity is:
<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/collections.pdf>

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

We support a network of teaching professionals throughout the European Union to promote inclusive education. We develop and disseminate accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.

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Website: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org>

BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies that promote talk across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We want to encourage you to change them and adapt them to your classroom and students. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project posts online many activities in all subject areas. An online newsletter is also updated regularly.

*These activities are influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in non selective classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening. They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of speaking and listening.

*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in pupils' first languages and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work more effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

Collections Connect Four

Instructions:

Two individuals or two teams of two can play the game. Before you start the game, take one set of predictable collections cards and try to place them on all the squares on the board. You can check with a thesaurus if you have any questions about where the cards fit.

Each team has a different coloured set of items cards.

Take turns to pick a card. If you have an item (eg geese) that fits the collection word (eg gaggle) on the board you can place it there. Some of the items are the common ones, but some of them are rare. If you think a new item fits the word on the board then you have to justify it to the other players. A good way to check if it is in use is to google the phrase.

The first team to get four cards in a row, vertically, diagonally or horizontally is the winner.

PS You might find it useful to write down the combinations you have chosen.

Collections - Connect Four Game Board

pride bundle flight	flock flourish flight	gaggle swarm cluster
bunch stream coven	bundle bag clutch	stream handful hive
coven pack load	flourish shoal pair	flight pair set
bag collection gallery	clutch den round	handful team group
hive jar galaxy	list string troupe	host bevy peal
swarm school pack	fleet shoal set	cluster pride flock

This is the left side of the game board - Glue to the right side and mount or laminate

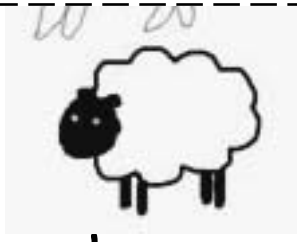
This is the right hand side of the game board. Cut this margin off and glue to the left hand side.

pack pride flock	load gaggle bunch	shoal bundle stream
pair coven flourish	set flight bag	collection clutch handful
gallery hive list	den host swarm	round fleet cluster
team troupe bevy	group peal clutch	jar string handful
galaxy pair load	string bundle set	troupe bag list
bevy group list	peal round den	school flock pride

Predictable collections cards



lions



sheep



geese



grapes



letters



visitors



witches



trumpets



aircraft



sweets



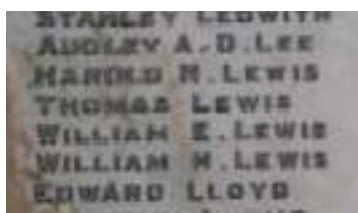
eggs



dust



bees



names



angels



locusts



ships



diamonds

Cut these into cards and print in two colours.

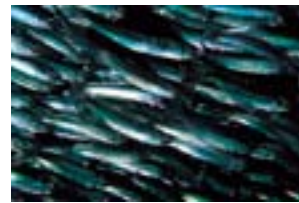
Predictable collections



wolves



hay



herring



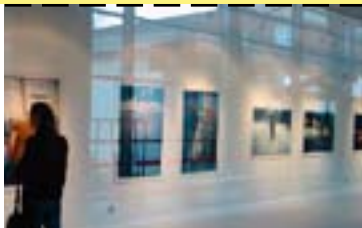
shoes



volumes



stamps



pictures



thieves



drinks



footballers



children



pickles



stars



pearls



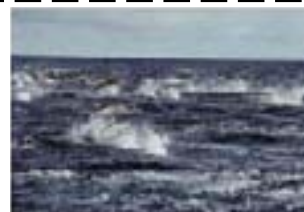
dancers



beauties



bells



porpoises

Predictable collections cards



lions



sheep



geese



grapes



letters



visitors



witches



trumpets



aircraft



sweets



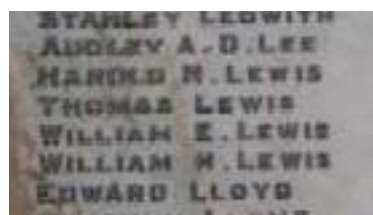
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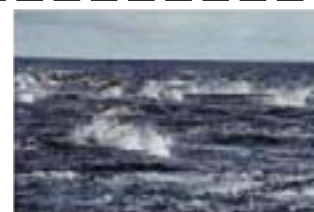
dancers



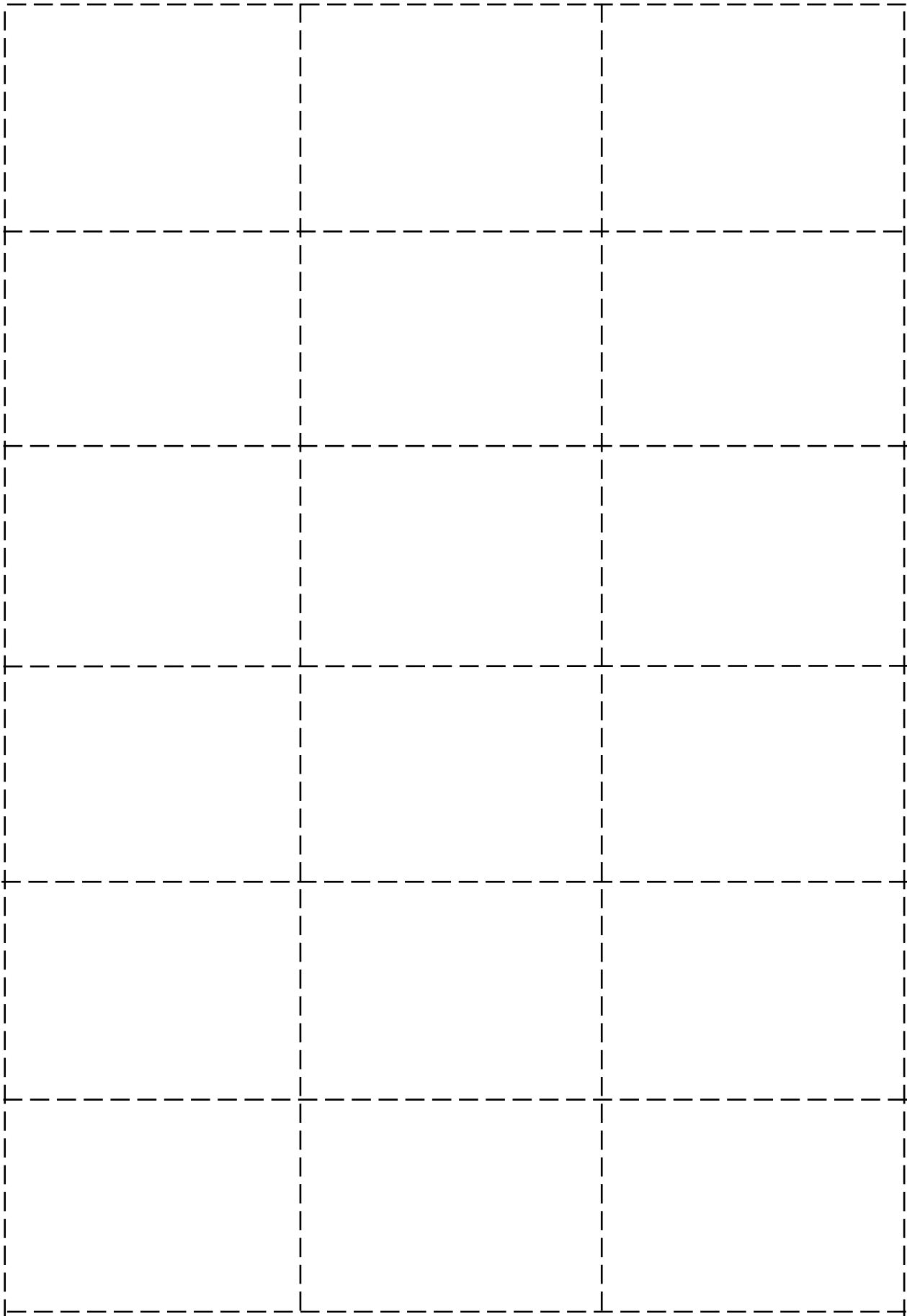
beauties



bells



porpoises



Less predictable collections

upturned noses graduates	tourists	stones
dates fives flowers keys	emeryboards	swallows pasty
demons	scarves	kites
rice	handbags	
		consciousness
wasps		pimples

These are alternative items for bunches/flocks etc and are in the same position as their collective nouns on pages 4 and 5. Collaborative Learning Project - <http://www.collaborativelearning.org>

Less predictable collections

cards hounds brats	rubbish	tuna shells
blue eyes	jellies	antique dealers pens toenails
rogues	estate agents farmers	drinks
sheep		chillies humbugs
pop stars	knots pearls lies excuses	soldiers baboons
beauties beer	bananas door bells	antelopes

These are alternative items for bunches/flocks etc and are in the same position as their collective nouns on pages 4 and 5.

Collaborative Learning Project - <http://www.collaborativelearning.org>

Invented collective nouns

a panic of
investors

a strain of
coaches

a screech
of starlings

a crush of
commuters

a pluck of
strings

a plop of
pigeons

a rattle of
tablets

a groan of
bad jokes

a slick of
mechanics

a slam of
doors

a cue of
snooker
players

a dribble
of foot-
ballers

a den of
draculas

a pinch of
pliers

a bruise of
boxers

a squirt
of water
pistols

a nip of
frosty
mornings

a crack of
whips

Invented collective nouns

a tick of
clocks

a draw of
curtains

a smoke of
chimneys

a burst of
laughs

a steal of
thieves

a medal of
athletes

a greeting
of friends

a worry of
widows

a tinkle of
mobiles

a concern
of carers

a grumble
of moaners

a cuddle of
grandmas

a shine of
projectors

a close look
of advisers

an intrusion
of
inspectors

a slump of
sofas