

Decay Connect Four

Developed originally by Judith Evans when at Rosebery Primary School in Loughborough.

Teachers' notes:

Inspired by the timelapse photos of decaying fruit at the Tate Modern, I have adapted this activity to "do it yourself." Originally the game board spelt out the different rates of decay, and the cards contained pictures of the items. I have turned it around so that children can collect pictures or even use real items (the decaying gameboard!) to assemble their own gameboards and try the activity out on each other. In many cases the process of making the game is in itself a fruitful activity which stimulates a lot thought and talk. I have provided a sample board with pictures.

The webaddress for this activity is: <http://collaborativelearning.org/decayc4.pdf>

This activity was last updated 10th February 2008

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

Supporting a cooperative network of teaching professionals throughout the European Union to develop and disseminate accessible interactive teaching materials in all subject areas and for all ages.

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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 mother tongue 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.

Decay Connect Four Cards. Print one set in one colour and a second in another colour on card and cut up.

decays
quickly

decays
quickly

decays
quickly

decays
quickly

decays
quickly

decays
slowly

decays
slowly

decays
slowly

decays
slowly

decays
slowly

doesn't
decay

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decay

doesn't
decay

doesn't
decay

doesn't
decay

decays
slowly

decays
slowly

doesn't
decay

decays
quickly

decays
quickly

Decay Connect Four Board



newspaper



plastic pen



tomato



brick



woolly hat



mug



pencil



ribena carton

This is the top half of the connect four board which you need to glue to the bottom half using this as the flap.

This is the bottom half of the connect four board which you need to glue to the top half after you have cut this bit off.



coke can



plastic bottle



banana skin



knife and fork



sweet wrapper



apple



bar of chocolate



feather



orange



lump of cheese



sandwich



glass bottle