

Wordy maths

This can either be an activity to help children unravel the maths lurking in some very wordy questions often favoured by the writers of tests, or a collaborative literacy activity to encourage children conceal some maths in very wordy clothes. As you can see from the examples we have provided you can put history, science or just imagination in your problems. You can decide how to use them. We would welcome any super wordy questions you might like to send us and we'll put them on line with a credit.

This activity was last updated 10th May 2004

The webaddress for this activity is;

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/wordymaths.pdf>

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

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Supporting a cooperative network of teaching professionals throughout the European Union to develop and disseminate accessible 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 across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project publishes a catalogue of activities plus lists in selected subject areas, and a newsletter available on the internet: "PAPERCLIP".

*These activities were 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 mixed 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 and other formative assessment.

*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 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.

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Wordy maths questions

Every robot drinks three cans of robot oil every week. The robot cook has to put enough cans in the drink machine for eighteen robots. How many cans does he need to put in the machine every week?

Freda, the school window cleaner, needs to clean twenty four very dirty school windows. She is allowed six buckets of soapy water. How many windows does she clean with each bucket?

Six robbers have dug a tunnel into a bank vault. They want to carry heavy gold bars from the vault to their lair. Two robbers are needed to carry each gold bar, and it takes twelve minutes to remove each bar from the vault. How many bars can they remove in two hours?

Grace has six Bratz dolls called: Chloe, Sasha, Jade, Yasmin, Megan, Dana. Grace went to the shop to buy two more Bratz dolls called: Nevra and Kate.

Wordy maths questions

Eight happy mice live in a cosy mousehole. They borrow a half kilo lump of cheese from the fridge. Each mouse eats 10grams a day. How long does the lump last?

Two rabbits decide to have a family. Every month for a year they produce six baby rabbits. How big is their family after a year?

Denise, a zookeeper, has to order bamboo shoots for the panda. Suky, the panda, eats 1.5kgs a day. How many kilos of shoots does she need to order every week?

Gregory, a Tudor doctor, needs six leeches to draw enough blood out of each patient. He has thirty nine leeches in his jar. How many patients can be bleed successfully?