

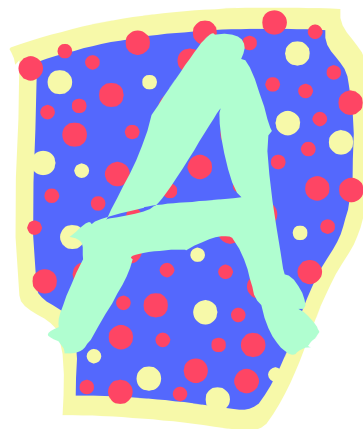
Algebra/Geometry Institute Summer 2006

Lesson Plan 2: Probability

Faculty Name: Erika Downing

School: Oakhurst Middle School Clarksdale, MS

Grade Level: 6



Teaching Objective(s)

- Collect, organize, and summarize data and use simple probability.
 - Calculate and apply basic probability.

Instructional Activities

- The teacher will say, “Today we are going to do an activity with probability.” The teacher will review probability including definition and how to find the probability.
- The teacher will ask, “What do you think are the most commonly used letters in the English language?” The students will list on paper their predictions starting with the letter they think is most common.
- The students will share their predictions with their group members and the group will make one list.
- Each student will pick two sentences from a book (either a textbook or another book they have) and tally how many times each letter appears in each sentence using the activity sheet provided.
- The teacher will compile each group’s responses and make one class chart at the front of the room. (This can be done on the board or on butcher paper.)
- The class will analyze the class chart and list the letters of the alphabet in the order of frequency according to the students’ findings.
- The class will compare the results with their predictions and with the actual order of frequency in the English language:
E T A O (N I) S R H L D C U (P F) M W Y (B G) V K (Q X) (J Z)
(Those grouped together with parenthesis have the same frequency of occurrence)
(This information came from source.)
- The teacher will write a sentence on the board. This can be a made up sentence or the following sentence could be used for demonstration.
Mr. Jones’s math class has an excellent selection of mathematicians.

- The teacher will ask the students, “If each letter in the sentence was put in a bag, what is the probability you would pull an e from the bag?” The teacher will continue with this type of questioning for each letter.

Material and Resources

- Textbook or story book
- Butcher paper (optional)
- Markers (optional)
- Activity sheet

Assessment

- The teacher will assess the student’s knowledge during the class discussion and by checking their activity sheets.

Resource: *About Teaching Mathematics: A K-8 Resource* by Marilyn Burns

MOST POPULAR

What is the most popular letter in the English language? Let's find out! Pick two sentences from a book and copy the sentence down here.

Tally how many times you see each letter in the two sentences. Pretend each letter in the sentences was put in a bag. Write the probability of pulling each letter from the bag?"

A _____

N _____

B _____

O _____

C _____

P _____

D _____

Q _____

E _____

R _____

F _____

S _____

G _____

T _____

H _____

U _____

I _____

V _____

J _____

W _____

K _____

X _____

L _____

Y _____

M _____

Z _____