

Teacher Information: this is a variation on a classic lesson

Practice your observation skills with apples.

To prepare for this activity you will need a variety of apples. You need enough to have one for each child and a few spares in case of injury.

Begin by asking the children to identify the "object" in front of them. Do not tell them it is an apple. Rather, when they giggle and say, "An apple, of course" ask them, "How do you know?" Eventually, this will lead them to a combination of prior experiences and observations that lead them to identification.

Once you have established that it is an apple, engage the students in using their senses of sight, touch and smell to observe the apples. The goal is detailed description, to notice each particular bump, bit of color, oddity of shape. The students should record their observations in writing and diagrams (labeled sketches). As they work, encourage them to search for further details.

Next, collect the apples in a bag and mix them well. Have the class sit in a circle. Empty the apples into the center. Each child can then try to identify their own apple based on their written observations. Two or three children can look for their apples at the same time. When they find their apple, the children sit back down at their places in the circle with the apples on the floor in front of them. In this way, if there are any disputes about the identification of an apple, they are available for inspection.

You can then wash and taste the apples, noting the differences in taste and texture of each type.

Name _____

Date _____

Today I learned about

Did you know that

One question I have is:

