



LESSON PLAN: Memory Activities – What Is Missing?

Topic: Memory

Subject | Stream:

Biology

Science

Grade Level:

Junior (Grades 4-6)

Intermediate (Grades 7-10)

Senior (11 & 12)

Objectives:

- To learn about various factors that can influence our ability to remember something

Background Information (*information about the memory to explain how memory works to your students*):

- Memory is the process of storing experiences in the brain and recalling them later.
- People use their memories during every moment of their lives. They must remember words and ideas to speak or to write.
- Memory is the process of taking in information from the world around us, processing it, storing it, and later recalling that information, sometimes many years later.
- Scientists know that memories cause chemical changes in the neurons (nerve cells) in the brain. The chemical changes create what are called memory paths. These paths can remain in the brain for seconds or for a person's entire life.
- There are three types of memory:
 1. **Sensory memory:** Information from the world around us begins to be stored by sensory memory, making it possible for this information to be accessible in the future.
 2. **Short-term memory:** Short-term memory is a way to store information temporarily. It lasts about 15 to 30 seconds.
 3. **Long-term memory:** Long-term memory is the storage of information for longer periods. It can last days, months, years, or a lifetime. Repeating and practicing motions or tasks help the brain to store information for a long time.





This lesson plan has three different activities to choose from

ACTIVITY #1: MEMORY TRAY

Materials Needed:

- Tray with 15 classroom items (pen, pencil, crayon, eraser, chalk, markers, scissors, ruler, etc.)
- Towel / cloth to cover tray

Instructions for Activity #1

Step 1: Put 15 items on a tray and allow students to study the items for 1 minute.

Step 2: After 1-minute, have the students look away and remove one of the objects.

Step 3: Students to identify which of the item(s) were removed from the tray.

Step 4: Repeat steps 1-3 with 20 objects to study the impacts on memory.

Step 5: Repeat steps 1-3 with 10 objects to study the impacts on memory.

Step 6: Repeat steps 1-3 but remove 2 objects instead of 1.

ACTIVITY #2: WHO IS MISSING

Materials: N/A

Instructions for Activity #2:

Step 1: Have your students line up in the classroom, then send 1 kid out of the room.

Step 2: While the 1 student is in the hallway, have 1 student from the line up hide within the classroom.

Step 3: Invite the student back into the room and have them guess who is missing.





ACTIVITY #3: EYEWITNESS

Materials: N/A

Instructions:

Step 1: Have a student of the class enter the room while the students are doing seatwork.

Step 2: Have a list of things this member must do when they enter the class (e.g., open a window, pick something up off the ground, talk to teacher, talk to a student, etc.).

Step 3: When this person leaves the room, ask the students to write down everything they remember about the person who came in (e.g., what were they wearing, what did they touch/do, etc.). You may also ask leading questions to see if that influence responses (e.g., what were they carrying? Even if they were carrying nothing).

Step 4: At the end, go through a list of what the person did and see how the students did.

Step 5: Repeat steps 1-4 but inform the students someone will be coming in, and they are to remember everything they can about that student.

