Utilizing the Bulletin Board: An Educational Interactive Tool

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

By

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Abstract:

This is a resource guide composed of five educational interactive bulletin boards. Each bulletin board had several criteria in which to follow. The most important requirement was the ability for the bulletin board to be interactive. An interactive bulletin board is one in which students are given the opportunity to manipulate and move parts of the bulletin board in order to use it and ultimately to learn from it. Each bulletin board had to be original, flexible in grade range and subject, composed with everyday items, and motivational to the students. Through use of Velcro, milky pens, tongue depressors, baggies, plastic table clothes, and many other items, each bulletin board can become a learning tool which students can manipulate. This guide does not contain the actual pieces and parts of the bulletin boards; rather computer-generated examples which future teachers can use to create bulletin boards to fit their classroom environments. A hard copy and computer generated presentation (Microsoft PowerPoint Version 4.0a) are both available.

Acknowledgments:

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Works Cited


*All bulletin boards are original ideas created by Koren A. Fifer.*

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Project Goal: To create an interactive bulletin board resource guide to be used in an elementary classroom.

Criteria:

- The resource guide must address grades 1-6.
- Each bulletin board must be adaptable to a range of grade levels.
- The resource guide must be based on academic subjects such as Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts.
- The resource guide must address learning skills such as problem solving, using context clues, and trial and error.
- Each bulletin board must be highly adapted to each individual classroom.
- Each must be composed of materials that are inexpensive and easily found, such as Velcro, baggies, pushpins, paper cups, and tongue depressors.
- The project must be composed in Microsoft PowerPoint.
- A hard copy must also be created.
- Each bulletin board must be an original idea created by myself.
Directions: Choose an addition lollipop. Solve the problem and put it in the correct answer cup. Can you find the cup that has the most lollipops?

One bag has 4 pieces of yellow candy. A second bag has 3 pieces of red candy. How many pieces in all?

4 + 3 = 7

Ziplock Baggies
The Addition Candy Shop

Grade Level Range: 1-3

Purpose: A supporting activity to reinforce and self-correct the students’ basic knowledge of math facts and story problems.

Secondary Purpose: An activity to reinforce reading and problem solving skills.

Features: **Lucky Lollipops:** This activity works on basic math facts such as simple addition. The stick of the lollipop can be made with a tongue depressor on which a math problem is written, such as 2+3= (or, this can be written on the lollipop face.) The answer can be found on the back side of the tongue depressor or on a hidden flap sheet for students to self-correct. Once an answer is found, the lollipop is to be placed in the cup labeled with the answer. Cups can be made with half a yogurt cup, small Pringles cans, or paper cups. Whichever cup has the most lollipops after they are sorted is considered the lucky one. The answer can be hidden under a flap or with the teacher to prevent premature peaking.

**Gumball Fun:** This activity is based on problem solving. First, the students complete the story problem by filling in the blanks with number and color cards (green) found in a pocket. They then select the correct color and amount of gumballs from the machine. (The gumballs are placed on the globe of a drawn representation of a gumball machine. Gumballs can be velcroed, hung on pushpins, or they can be loose in a large Ziplock which is placed over the globe.) The gumballs are placed in the smaller Ziplock baggies to form a visual problem.
The students then use pink cards to fill in the number that represent the correct amount of gumballs in each baggie.

Extensions: This bulletin board could be based on addition, multiplication, division, subtraction, or almost any math concept. It also could be adapted by use of a variety of materials. (Refer back to the previous page for details.)

Using the candy store theme, a teacher could expand on this idea to encompass the whole classroom environment. Other bulletin boards and learning centers can be created to address additional math or academic skills. For example, the math concept of money could easily be explored. An interactive 2-dimensional cash register along with fake money could be very motivational to students. Students could purchase paper or real candy with fake money while working on problem solving and money skills.

Lollipop Examples:
Clipart for the Classroom
SPEED!

A fun and self-correct activity to any subject.

Integrate the method using lightweight movable cardboard cars with Velcro backing, raceway with clear Velcro strips and clearly marked yellow dashes to indicate the player or team's score, and card packets and cards for each team. The board can be used as a motivational scoreboard with which the students record their correct answers by moving their race car ahead one dash for every correct answer. Each card contains a question on front and answer on the back. The players are to be read the question on the card, with the first one to reach the red line winning the race.

Extensions:

- Use of a different sport, such as soccer, track, or swimming could also be motivational for the students.
- Answer cards may have multiple choice answers or single word answers.
- A class scoreboard can be kept for the amount of races and winners.
- This idea can easily be adapted to magnetic chalkboards and dry erase boards.
that they feel are important.

Personalize it to your class by having the students find the materials from their homes and classroom. Students can research and write recycling facts of old boxes.

Recycling facts can be written on recycled paper from the classroom or out bringing in their own recycling materials can placed under the bulletin board.

materrial such as plastic or paper bags, or newspaper. Bins for students to plastic bags, and newspaper. The background can be made of recycled.

Extensisons: The boarder can be made of recycled materiaal such as pop cans.

attached, and a self-correcting flip.

solution flaps. Velcro spots or push pins by solutions for problem card to be such as recycling and pollution.

Features: This bulletin board contains splices cards with a social problem on it,

Secondary Purpose: An exploratory introductory activity to social problems

Correct the students basic knowledge of social concerns such as recycling.

Purpose: A supporting activity to reinforce problem solving skills and self-

Grade Level Range: 2-6

Recycle: Save the World
Clipart for the Classroom
A Puzzling Review

Across
1. The opposite of “to lead”
3. The plural of mouse
4. An 8 sided figure
6. The action word in a sentence
7. The 3rd President of the USA

Down
2. A 6 sided figure
5. “When it rains, it _____”
8. A synonym of jump
9. The plural form of fox.
A Puzzling Review

Grade Level Range: 3-6

Purpose: An activity designed to reinforce students' knowledge through review in a crossword style format.

Secondary Purpose: To encourage teamwork and cooperation within a group of students.

Features: A crossword is composed on the internet site “Puzzlemaker” at www.puzzlemaker.com. This crossword is then printed and projected onto the bulletin board. Then it is traced by the teacher or students with permanent or overhead markers onto a plastic table cloth that is used for the background of the bulletin board. Students fill in their answers with dry erase or overhead markers so that the crossword maybe used again.

Extensions: This idea can be used for a specific subject, unit, or lesson, or it can be used for a cumulative review of material learned within a grading period that incorporates all subject areas. If two or more bulletin boards are available along with Internet access for the students, the students can be broken into groups to compose their own crossword puzzles. Then, opposite teams would try to solve each others’ crossword bulletin boards.

Comic strips can be used to create an interesting border. The comic strips can be brought in by the students to encourage them to participate in their classroom environment. The comic strips are also highly motivational, thereby drawing the student to the board and encouraging them to read.
The Stupendous Solar System
The Stupendous Solar System

Grade Level Range: 4-6

Purpose: A supporting activity to reinforce and self-correct the students’ basic knowledge of solar system and the surrounding planets.

Secondary Purpose: An exploratory introductory activity to the solar system and the planets therein.

Features: On this bulletin board, the planets’ orbits can be made with milky gel pens that show up under a black light. Glow in the dark planets and sun with Velcro (ʻ ) on the back can be used. A black light, dark curtain and curtain rod, can be used to make glow in the dark stars, comets, and planets glow. Planets and planet names would both be moveable.

Extensions: Aliens and spaceships with cartoon bubbles can give interesting facts and information about the planets. Space adventures featuring math, science, and/or problem solving skills can also be displayed through alien or astronaut cartoon bubbles.
- The sun is not a planet. It is a star a million times bigger than Earth.

- The Earth takes 365 days or one year to travel around the sun once.

- The Earth has a blanket of air (called the atmosphere) around it that keeps it from getting too hot or too cold.

- On September 1, 1992, Dr. Mae C. Jenson was the first African American woman in space.

- Jupiter is more than 1 1/2 times as big as the other eight planets put together.

- The Red Spot on Jupiter is an enormous storm that is as large as two Earths put together.

This information was taken from a series of books about the planets written by Seymour Simon and Scholastic Encyclopedia of Women in the United States.
This Concludes the Presentation of

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Thank you for attending!