

# Lesson Plan: Finding Math in Daily Life

**Grade Level:** K-2

**Curriculum Focus:** Mathematics

**Lesson Duration:** Two class periods

## *Student Objectives*

- Brainstorm how math is used in daily life.
- Develop a class list of different topic areas in which math is used.
- Work in small groups to think of specific examples of how math is an important part of their lives.

## *Materials*

- Discovery School video on *unitedstreaming: Math Investigations 1*  
Search for this video by using the video title (or a portion of it) as the keyword.

Selected clips that support this lesson plan:

- Segment 1: Sports (Addition and Subtraction)
  - Segment 2: Music (Fractions)
  - Segment 5: Games (Addition and Subtraction)
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- Paper and pencils
  - Newsprint and markers

## *Procedures*

1. Begin by asking students how they think math is used in daily life. Suggest that math is used in cooking and baking. For example, to bake chocolate chip cookies, it is important to follow the directions in the recipe and measure the correct amounts of ingredients. Measuring requires using math.
2. Develop a class list of topic areas that make use of math. Examples include the following:
  - Baseball and other sports
  - Board games
  - Music
  - Redecorating a room

- Sharing food and toys
  - Using money
3. Divide students into four or five small groups. Assign each group a subject area above or any other areas mentioned by the students. Ask the groups to think of specific examples of how math is used in activities in these areas.
  4. Before students break into groups, you may want to show the first two segments of the video, which illustrate examples of math in daily life. Segment 1 features sports, and Segment 2 features music.
  5. Give students about 10 minutes to come up with their own examples. You may suggest the following:
    - Keeping score during a soccer game and figuring out how many more points the winning team has.
    - Counting how many spaces to move while playing "Candyland" or other board games.
    - Making sure everyone sings at the same time during a concert.
    - Measuring your room to find out how much paint to buy when redecorating.
    - Cutting an apple in equal parts or sharing a pizza equally.
    - Knowing how to count change when buying lunch at school.
  6. Bring students together and have each group present its findings. Students can perform their ideas in a skit, if appropriate. Keep a class list of the examples.
  7. Have a final discussion of math's role in everyday life. Are students surprised at how much math is used? Does this knowledge make them appreciate the importance of studying math?

### ***Assessment***

Use the following three-point rubric to evaluate students' work during this lesson.

- 3 points: Students participated actively in class discussions; used very creative thinking to develop a list of math examples; delivered a thoughtful and informative presentation.
- 2 points: Students participated in class discussions; used creative thinking to develop a list of math examples; delivered a competent presentation.
- 1 point: Students did not participate in class discussions; had difficulty developing a list of math examples; did not deliver a clear presentation.

### ***Vocabulary***

#### **counting**

*Definition:* Determining the number of individual units in a specific context, such as at school or home, or during a game

*Context:* By counting the number of points for each team after a game, you can figure out who won the game.

### **daily life**

*Definition:* The activities that may take place in a typical day

*Context:* Students are often surprised to see how often they use math in daily life.

### **math**

*Definition:* The study of number, quantity, form, and relations

*Context:* Math encompasses many subject areas, including arithmetic, algebra, and geometry.

### **measure**

*Definition:* The length, width, quantity, or capacity of an object or a liquid

*Context:* It is important to measure a room accurately when buying a rug or carpet.

## ***Academic Standards***

### **Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL)**

McREL's Content Knowledge: A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K-12 Education addresses 14 content areas. To view the standards and benchmarks, visit <http://www.mcrel.org/>.

This lesson plan addresses the following national standards:

- Understands and applies basic and advanced properties of the concepts of numbers

### **The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)**

NCTM has developed national guidelines for teaching mathematics. To view the standards online, go to <http://standards.nctm.org/>.

This lesson plan addresses the following math standards:

- Number and Operations: Understand numbers, ways of representing numbers, relationships among numbers, and number systems:
- Number and Operations: Understand meanings of operations and how they relate to one another:
- Number and Operations: Compute fluently and make reasonable estimates



## **Support Materials**

Develop custom worksheets, educational puzzles, online quizzes, and more with the free teaching tools offered on the Discoveryschool.com Web site. Create and print support materials, or save them to a Custom Classroom account for future use. To learn more, visit

- <http://school.discovery.com/teachingtools/teachingtools.html>

