

K.I.M.'s (Keep In Mind) Game

This activity can be used as an introduction to a topic that has many pieces to it or as an assessment of children's understandings after an activity unit.

K.I.M.'s Game (Keep In Mind Game) is a takeoff on the memory game. If you have items that you want your students to become familiar with, KIM's game is a great activity. For example, if you're learning about gardening, you might have items used in planting a row of seeds;

- seeds
- string attached to two sticks to make a straight line in the garden
- a trowel or hoe
- watering can
- sign to indicate what is growing

1. Lay the items out on the floor or table, cover with a cloth. The number of items should be appropriate for the age of the students. Explain that the cloth will be removed for a minute so children can see what is underneath and children should try to remember as many as possible before the cloth is placed over the items. Discuss strategies for remembering the items; knowing how many there are may help, make associations with the items, take a "picture" with your mind's eye.
2. Uncover the items and let the children observe them for a minute. Then cover the items again.
3. Once the cloth is returned, begin listing the items as children take turns remembering them. After they have exhausted their memories, pull back the cloth and check the list with what is there. As you check items off the list, talk about what that item is and how it is used.

As an extension, after all the items have been discussed, have a child remove one item while the others close their eyes. At the count of three, eyes are opened and they try to guess what item has been removed.