

COORDINATE, COORDINATES

Purpose: Students will apply their knowledge of plotting coordinates onto a life size grid.

Suggested Grade Level: 4 - 5

Math SOL: Geometry

Equipment/Materials Needed:

1. 1 marker
2. 1 shower curtain liner (from Dollar Tree, etc.). Additional curtains may be used depending on class size.
3. 1 poker chip or index card per student
4. Sticky notes (enough to label the liners)

Advance Preparation:

1. Buy shower curtain liner, lay it out on the floor, and draw out an 8x8 grid (see photo provided).
2. Do not label the inside of the grid, but rather label the sticky notes and place them on the outside of both the “x” and “y” axis, using whatever numbers you choose. For example, mark lines 0-8 on the “x” axis and 0-8 on the “y” axis (see photo provided).

Directions:

1. Tell students to stand at the bottom of the grid along the “x” axis.
2. Give each student a poker chip/index card.
3. Call out a student’s name and give him/her a location (2, 3) and ask that student to place his/her chip on the appropriate coordinate.
4. Continue this process until all students have had a turn.
5. Next, go to the grid, point to a chip/card, and have the class tell you which coordinate it represents. As each coordinate is correctly identified, remove the chip.

Modifications/Variations:

1. Give each student more than one chip.
2. Mark the grid in 10’s or 1000’s instead of 1’s.
3. Connect 4 liners together and incorporate negative numbers.
4. Divide your students into groups and use more than one grid.
5. Have students roll 2, 20-sided die and then use the 2 numbers for marking coordinates.
6. While each student marks his/her coordinates, have the rest of the class do a fitness activity (elbow to knees, toe raises, jumping jacks, etc.). The number of times the students perform the activity can be determined by the numbers on one or both of the die.
7. Pre-label index cards with coordinates, give them to students, and have them stand at the appropriate coordinate. Repeat this process as time allows.

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