

Junkbox Inventory

Number of Students: Small Groups

Materials:

- 1 Large plastic tub containing a prepared assortment of items per group
- 1 Junkbox list per student
- 1 pencil (or whiteboard marker if lists are laminated) per student

Preparation:

Prepare a Junkbox by placing a number of collections of easily distinguishable items into a large plastic tub. Ensure that there are not too many of any one item to be easily counted (eg no more than ten of any item). For example, the tub may contain different types of pattern blocks, pencils, glue sticks, scissors, crayons, multilink cubes, counters, different types of MAB blocks, etc.

Prepare a number of Junkbox lists, or modify the lists provided to suit the contents of the tub.

The lists may be laminated for longevity although this is not strictly necessary.

How :

Each student (or pair of students) is given a copy of a Junkbox list. They identify an item on the list and remove all instances of that item from the tub. For example, if they choose pencils, they must remove all pencils from the tub. Once they are sure they have got them all, they count how many of that item there are, and write this number on the place provided on their list.

When all students have completed their lists, they take turns counting their collections items out loud along with the rest of the group, and showing the number they have recorded on their sheet.