Kim’s Game and Story Association

## Lesson Plan

This lesson plan includes two versions of the activity: one with a video, and one without.

The version with the video includes a complete activity and is ideal for minimal set-up time. The version without the video is ideal if the corresponding video either cannot be accessed, or if limited screen time is preferred for the individual playing the game.

Children can play both versions of this activity on their own, yet younger children may need help with reading instructions and/or setting up the game (non-video version).

**Topic: Memory (Kim’s Game)**

Learning intention:

Children will learn about memory and story association, by playing Kim’s Game. Children will see the effects that story association has on memory and object retrieval.

Aimed at:

This lesson is designed for children between the ages of 8 and 12 but is adaptable for a wider age range, due to the flexibility of the activity.

Lesson Length:

This lesson is approximately 30 minutes (video: approximately 6 minutes).

Background

It has been shown that memory function and object retrieval can be improved by using a story association method or ‘linking’ method. By making associations between different objects, through creating an interesting or memorable story, the flow of the story provides prompts for object retrieval. The story method is a clever and efficient way to remember objects which are not connected, due to the structure of the story. Kim’s Game is a memory game which demands object retrieval and can be played in correlation with the story association technique to help remember more objects.

Introduction

Kim’s Game is a fun memory game played by Boy and Girl Scouts. The game has also been used by people training to become soldiers and spies. The game has been designed to improve someone’s ability to see and recall details.

The name of the game comes from Rudyard Kipling’s novel ‘Kim’. In this book, Kim is the hero, and he plays this game when training to be a spy! You could read this book after today’s lesson and read all about Kim’s adventures as a spy.



It’s important to have a good memory for lots of different jobs. Can you think of any jobs that you would need to have a good memory for? Teachers, doctors and scientists all need to have good memories, along with lots of other jobs!

Kim’s Game involves looking at a collection of objects, and after a short period of time, trying to remember them all. It can be more or less difficult to remember all of the objects, depending on how long you look at them, how many there are, and if the objects are more obscure. This means Kim’s Game can be made easier or more difficult, depending on who is playing the game.

Story association is a concept which makes a group of random objects easier to remember. When items are arranged into a logical or ‘connected’ order, memory and object retrieval are improved. If you use story association when playing Kim’s Game, you should be able to remember more objects.

When you are ready, choose which activity you would like to play today: the activity with the video, or the activity without the video.

Today’s Activity (with video)

Today, we are going to play Kim’s Game together. There are a few different ways to play Kim’s Game, but today we are going to play the most ‘classic’ way.

I am going to show you a group of objects, and after a minute, I will ask you to see how many you can remember. There are different ways to try and remember all the objects, but it can still be difficult to remember them all.

I’m also going to teach you my little trick for remembering more objects!

You will need:

* The ‘Kim’s Game’ Video
* (Optional: pen/pencil)

If you’re ready to begin, you can press play on the video now.

If you want to, you can use the worksheet (next page) to fill in the answers to the questions from the video.



Have you finished watching the video?

You learned how to play Kim’s Game, and you learned my little trick for remembering more objects. Did you enjoy the story I told you? Did it help you remember more objects?

Worksheet (with video)

**Demonstration**

Write down the objects you can remember here…

How many did you remember?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Task 1**

Write down the objects you can remember here…

How many did you remember?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Task 2**

Write down the objects you can remember here…

How many did you remember?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Did you remember more objects in Task 2 than in Task 1? Yes or no?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Well Done! You’ve just played Kim’s Game.

I’m sure you managed to remember lots of objects. Did my ‘Story Association’ trick help you to remember more objects?

The more you practise, the better your memory and object retrieval will become!

Today’s Activity (without video)

Today, you are going to play Kim’s Game. There are a few different ways to play Kim’s Game, but today you are going to play the most ‘classic’ way.

Here are some instructions on how to make your own version of Kim’s Game.

You will need:

* 10-15 small objects
* A timer or a clock (remember a smartphone has a timer!)
* A blanket or a towel
* (Optional: pen/pencil)

Setting Up Kim’s Game:

1. Find 10-15 small objects from around your house.
2. Place all these objects together on a table or, making sure you can see each object clearly.
3. Have your blanket/towel next to the objects.
4. Make sure your timer or clock is ready for you to use.

Playing Kim’s Game:

1. Now that you have all of your objects laid out in front of you, you can begin playing Kim’s Game. Use your timer or clock to time yourself for 1 minute. Look at the objects for this minute and try to remember as many as you can.
2. Next, place your blanket or towel over your objects. See how many objects you can remember - no peaking!
3. If you want to, fill in the worksheet and write down how many objects you could remember.

If you want to practise, you can play the game lots of times. Try using different objects each time or using more objects to challenge yourself. Hopefully, you will get better with practice!

Worksheet (without video)

**Game 1**

Write down the objects you can remember here…

How many did you remember?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Game 2**

Write down the objects you can remember here…

How many did you remember?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Game 3**

Write down the objects you can remember here…

How many did you remember?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Did you remember the most objects in Game 3? Yes or no?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Well Done! You’ve just played Kim’s Game.

I’m sure you managed to remember lots of objects. Did practising the game help you to remember more objects?

The more you practise, the better your memory and object retrieval will become!

**References**

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