

Trains

Lesson Overview: This is an interdisciplinary thematic unit on trains that includes four activity stations. Children will work on each station for five days.

Target Grade: Kindergarten

Sources Consulted: *Freight Train* by Donald Crews, *I Love Trains* by Philemon Sturges, MDE website for GLCE, Common Core State Standards.

Learning Objectives:

Kindergarten students will be able to:

- Math- compare and count train cars
- Science- describe push, pull, weight, and mass
- Social Studies- locate train tracks on a U.S. map
- Language Arts- write a sentence about trains

Benchmarks Addressed:

Math: K.MD.A.1-Describe and compare attributes of objects such as length or weight. Describe several measurable attributes of a single object.

RL.K.1-With prompting and support ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

RL.K.9- With prompting and support compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories.

Writing: W.K.8- With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Science: P.FM.E.3

P.FM.E.31

P.FM.E.32

P.FM.E.33

P.FM.E.34

Social Studies: K-G1.0.2

K-G1.0.2

K-E1.0.2

Materials and Quantities:

Picture books, blocks, play dough, LEGOs, train set, U.S. maps, markers, pencils, journals, and paper
3 books for the centers:

Freight Trains by Donald Crews

I Love Trains by Philemon Sturges

Down by the Station by Will Hillenbrand

Vocabulary:

push	hoot	roar	rumble
pull	train	weight	map
engines	big	little	strong
weak	carry	freight	coal

copper steel boxcars gas
tanker tender flatcar

Focus Questions: How do you get to the store to buy shoes? How did the shoes get to the store?

Classroom Center Activities:

Students will work on these stations for five days while the teacher observes each student.

Math- children will group trains by their similar appearances, such as size, shape, color

Science- children will push trains of different weights and measure with a 12 inch ruler which goes the furthest

Social Studies- children use LEGO train sets to explore different areas on a U.S. traveling map

Language Arts- children will read books about trains and use journals to write and draw pictures of trains

Assessment: Classroom observation and journal entries, anecdotal notes, teacher will observe each center.