



Explore: Teacher Guide

Observing Matter Module

Use this guide to reveal student knowledge and generate interest and curiosity about the different types of observations that can be made to describe matter.

This teacher support document can be completed in conjunction with the online Explore.

Why Explore?

The purpose of the Explore phase is to provide students with a common experience that can be used to reveal student understanding of the concept and promote interest and curiosity.

In this activity, students choose from a selection of adjectives to describe the qualitative characteristics for a toy of their choosing so Jose, an online character, can identify their toy from many toys. As the adjectives the students chose are read, the toys that do not match the description are eliminated. Depending on the adjectives chosen by the student, only one toy will remain.

Reveal student knowledge and understanding

Use the following questions during the activity to encourage your students to think about how to best describe the characteristics of the toy. Recall that these questions are only meant to reveal current student knowledge of the concept and therefore should not be assessed as right or wrong.

- As students begin selecting the words to describe the toy they have chosen, ask:
 - Are you looking carefully at the colors, shape, designs and decorations on your toy?
 - Is your description only what everyone can SEE, not the way you feel about this toy?
 - What happens when you list your opinion, or how you feel, about the toy instead of how it looks?

Promote interest and curiosity.

Use these questions to elicit a post activity discussion as your students reflect on the activity and its connection to the concept. Recall that these inquiry questions are meant to encourage students' interest and curiosity of the concept and therefore do not need to be recorded and should not be assessed as right or wrong.

- What did this activity remind you of?
- Can you think of any other way to make your descriptions better?
- What did you like best about this activity?
- How did your descriptions or the words you chose change as you practiced this activity?
- What were some of the words that helped Jose find the toy you picked?
- What were some of the words that did NOT help Jose find the toy you picked?
- Why do you need to make careful, accurate descriptions?
- How would using facts, not feelings or fluff, help you better describe the toys or other objects?