

COUNTING SHEEP AND OTHER CRITTERS!

LESSON SNAPSHOT

RELATED “MY AMERICAN FARM” GAME

“In My Barn” available at www.myamericanfarm.org



*Specially formatted for the tablet app available on iTunes and Google Play

GRADE LEVELS: Pre-K - Kindergarten

CONTENT AREAS: Math, Science

STANDARDS

K-LS1-1. Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.
Next Generation Science Standards

K.CC.A.2 Count forward beginning from a given number within the known sequence (instead of having to begin at 1).

K.CC.A.3 Write numbers from 0 to 20. Represent a number of objects with a written numeral 0-20 (with 0 representing a count of no objects).

K.CC.C.7 Compare two numbers between 1 and 10 presented as written numerals.
Common Core State Standards for Mathematics

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this activity, the students will be able to:

- Sequence numbers from 1 to 10
- Compare two numbers between 1 and 10
- Identify animals that can be found on farms and ranches
- Explain how farmers care for animals

MATERIALS

- Colored construction paper
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Markers
- Googly eyes (optional)
- Pipe cleaners (optional)
- Tablets loaded with My American Farm app

PREPARATION

- Preview the My American Farm app and familiarize yourself with the “In My Barn” game.
- Review the lesson plan. Areas with an asterisk are places the lesson can be modified depending on how many tablets are available.

INTRODUCTION

SET CONTEXT FOR THE ACTIVITY

Step 1: Introduce how farmers care for animals

- Ask students to name animals that live on a farm or ranch. Capture responses on whiteboard. After they name the most common (cows, sheep, horses, pigs, goats) ask them to think a little harder about what other types of animals might be found there. If needed, give them prompts, such as animals we think of as pets (barn cats, herding dogs), animals that live in the wild (deer, mice, coyotes, rabbits), or even tiny creatures (lady bugs, spiders, ants).
- Continue the teacher led discussion by asking students:
 - » Who takes care of all the animals that live on the farm? (farmers and ranchers)
 - » What do the animals need to survive? (food, water, shelter, care when they are sick)
 - » Introduce the idea that, while farmers provide those things for farm animals, they also provide habitat (a place to live and find food) for many wild animals too!
- Preview the lesson by telling students they are going to have a chance to create animals that live on farms and ranches while they practice counting.

BODY

MAIN CONTENT

Step 2: Rotational Groups

Divide students into two groups for the following activity. Rotate groups once, so that students participate in both group activities.





Group A: Create animal numbers

- Under adult supervision have each student cut numbers 1-9 out of construction paper. Have numbers already cut out that students can trace if need be. Each student should have his or her own set of numbers.
- Instruct students to decorate their numbers like animals that live on farms. Each number should be a different animal. They can get creative! Remind them that wildlife and bugs live on farms too. Have an example set of numbers for students to look at.



the students and encourage parents to use them to practice math with their students.

Step 4: Compare animal numbers

- Ask students to hold up two numbers (i.e. the numbers they decorated as pigs and cows). With those two numbers in their hand, have them raise the larger number up higher. Quickly survey students' answers and make sure they are correct.
- Continue this sequence with other animals that are common to most of the class.

WRAP UP

REVIEW, ASSESS, CHALLENGE

*You can modify this activity by giving each student one number and creating small groups of students who have consecutive numbers 1-9.

Group B: Play Tablet App Game

- Depending on the availability of tablets, and your group size, you may have students working in groups of two to four per tablet. If only one tablet is available, position students around the tablet, as if reading a book, to display the screen and allow students to take turns moving pieces in the game.
- Have students play "In My Barn" game found on the My American Farm app.

*The game is set up to allow students to listen to audio prompts throughout the experience. You may wish to secure headphones for students, or play the game as a class while displaying on a large screen.

*Math tasks increase in challenge throughout the game. Preview and decide the most appropriate level(s) to play with the students.

Step 3: Order animal numbers

- Bring students back together as one group, and have them lay their animal numbers on the ground (or table if there is space) in sequence order.
- Depending on how advanced they are, you may also have them lay out the even or odd numbers in sequence.
 - They can be used with simple addition and subtraction equations too.



Send the animal numbers home with

Step 6: What have you learned?

- Have each student choose a single animal that can be found on a farm or ranch. They should keep their choice a secret.
- When play begins, have all students act out what animal they have chosen, they can make noises or body movements, but they can't say the name of their animal.
- Have students roam around the classroom until they find all the students who are the same animals they have chosen.
- After all the students have gotten into groups, combine any students who are left out into one group.
- Ask each group to think of three things that farmers do to take care of the specific animal they were. If time allows, have them share with the class.
- Challenge students to keep thinking about how important it is to take good care of animals. Encourage them to share this idea with their parents or siblings when they get home.

FOUNDATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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