

July Teacher Directions: Pigs on a Blanket

The story:

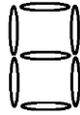
The Pig Family is going to the beach. But by the time they are ready to get into the water, the beach is closed for swimming!

The math:

The main topic is telling time. A good way to introduce lessons about time is to use REAL analog or digital clocks obtained at the dollar store, or at tag sales, etc.

On analog clocks, have them notice that the 12 is always at the top, the 6 at the bottom, the 3 at the right, and the 9 at the left. The other numbers go in-between. Notice that the minute hand is longer than the hour hand, and that some analog clocks have a second hand, too. Count to 60 as the second hand moves around the clock, and after students know how to count by fives, count by fives around the outside of the clock, to show how the minute hand works.

On digital clocks, speed up the display so that they can see how the hour changes every 60 minutes! Look at the numbers up close, and notice how all the digits (0 to 9) are made by lighting up portions of the following pattern:



After examining the clocks, have children practice making the correct time on an analog clock. The first step is to know how to read time on the hour. Then practice making and reading time on the half-hour. Remember that with the half-hour the hour hand is halfway between the two hours. So at 1:30, for example, the hour hand is halfway between the one and the two!

Older students need to be able to read and show any given time, and they need to be able to translate between digital time, like “12:50” and analog time where you put the minute hand on the 10 and the hour hand close to the 1 (because 12:50 is close to 1:00).

In upper elementary grades, students progress to understanding elapsed time and time intervals. For example, if it is 1:10 now, and we are going to the pool at 2:30, how long do we have to wait? If you start your trip at 12:15 and it takes 45 minutes to get there, what time will you arrive?

The activity:

The free downloadable worksheets include a clock face for making a paper plate clock. Put the numbers on the clock, then use a glue stick to glue the clock face to a paper plate. Cut out the clock hands on cardstock. (Index cards and manila file folders work well.) Attach the clock hands to the clock using a brass fastener.

Photocopy the time cards (preferably on cardstock). Use the set of cards that is most appropriate for your children – time on the hour, the half-hour, times in-between – or all three sets!

The last page of the book has a rebus story that retells the story in the book, showing clock faces and little pictures to recount what happened. This page can serve as your transition to the worksheet called “Pigs on a Blanket: Where Did the Time Go?” Elapsed time is a concept that is difficult for a lot of children, so take your time and demonstrate on the clock as you go along. Answers are as follows:

1. 11:40, 11:45, 12:30, 45 minutes, 40 minutes
2. 2:30, 2:55, 3:00
3. 15 minutes
4. 4:30
5. 4:40
6. 5:30
7. 6 hours
8. 1 hr 30 min

After you eat, do you really have to wait to go swimming?

For years, parents have been telling children that they have to wait 30-60 minutes before they go swimming after eating. Mrs. Pig suggested 20 minutes for their sandwich, 10 minutes for the potato chips, and another 20 minutes for lemonade and brownies. Was this really necessary? Check out these websites to see what the experts say! (It's too bad that Mrs. Pig didn't do a little online research!)

<http://www.snopes.com/oldwives/hourwait.asp>

http://www.dukehealth.org/health_library/health_articles/myth_or_fact_wait_30_minutes_after_eating_to_go_for_a_swim

<http://health.howstuffworks.com/mental-health/human-nature/health-myths/swimming-after-eating2.htm>

The "How Stuff Works" website had answers to some other interesting questions, too. Your students might like to do a little research on their own!

- Does reading in dim light really hurt your eyes?
- Should you really only eat shellfish when there's an "R" in the month?
- Does spicy food really cause ulcers?
- Will an apple a day keep the doctor away?
- Does sucking your thumb really ruin your teeth?
- Is eating bread crust really good for you?
- Will drinking coffee really stunt your growth?
- Are carrots really good for your eyesight?

Websites about Telling Time:

Jude e-clock. Move the hands and see the time.

http://www.mrmyers.org/Math_Mania/Math_Games/Jude_e-Clock/clock.htm

Bob's watches. A collection of neat activities for telling time, at different levels of difficulty.

<http://www.bobswatches.com/learn-tell-time.html>

Extras in the Book-of-the-Month Packet:

If you decide to order the July packet (for \$19.99), you will get a paperback copy of this month's featured book, **Pigs on a Blanket** by Amy Axelrod.

Also, you will get a set of time cards to introduce the topic of military and scientific time, using a 24-hour clock. (Military, emergency services and hospitals usually write hours and minutes without a colon. For example, 2:26 pm is written as 1426. When expressing seconds, they add a colon, such as 1426:15. In science and engineering, things are slightly different. Colons are usually inserted between hours, minutes and seconds, such as 14:26:15.)

Another item in the July packet is a game of "I Have Who Has" that involves remembering how many seconds in an hour, hours in a day, months in a year, years in a century, days in a week, etc.

Book-of-the-Month packets can be ordered online, using a credit card. Alternatively, you can fax or email a purchase order to:

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