

Pre-Planet Walk Lesson

Cooperative Learning



Overview:

This lesson is designed to help you teach 3 basic cooperative learning structures to your students so you can use these structures to increase student engagement with the content and each other on the Planet Walk.

<p><u>Time:</u> Preparation: 20 minutes Lesson: 15 minutes for each Cooperative Structure</p> <p><u>Key Vocabulary</u></p> <p>Round Robin Rally Robin Numbered Heads Together</p> <p><u>Materials:</u></p> <p>For each group of 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pencil • Butcher paper (depending on questions or projects selected) <p><u>Preparation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare questions to use in practicing the structures. 	<p><u>Background:</u> Cooperative Learning activities create opportunities for the greatest number of students to be actively engaged at any given time.</p> <p>In teaching these structures, you may find it is more effective to teach each structure separately to your students, and practice the structure for a day, rather than to teach all 4 structures at once.</p> <p>Remember there are two ways of making sure students have equal opportunities for participation. One is making sure each student has the same number of turns as the other students. The other is to share the time for talking equally. (In this case you will want to keep track of the time and tell students when they need to “switch”.)</p> <p>In each of the structures described below, decide whether the students will be sharing equal turns or equal time.</p> <p>When students are learning Cooperative Learning Structures for the first time, practice the structures using fun questions. This allows the students to focus on learning the structure for communicating rather than trying to learn the structure and think of answers to factual questions at the same time. Once the students are beginning to understand the Cooperative Learning structure, use questions about academic topics.</p> <p><u>Procedures:</u></p> <p><u>Round Robin</u></p> <p>Divide your class into teams of 4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the Round Robin structure to your students. (Take turns talking in a group of four.)
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Steps:

a) Teacher assigns a topic or question with several possible answers.

b) In teams, students respond orally, each taking about the same amount of time.

- Students practice taking turns answering questions and listening to their partners.
- Possible questions might be:

“If you could have any pet in the world what pet would you want and why?”

“What is the best book you have read this year and what was it you liked about it?”

“If you could go on an all expenses paid trip to anywhere in the universe, where would you go and with whom would you want to travel?”

“Name a hero of yours and describe why you admire that person.”

“Name a state and its capital.”

Rally Robin

Divide your class into pairs of students.

- Describe the Rally Robin structure to your students. In pairs, students alternate generating oral responses. Rally Robin is structured similar to the game of tennis or ping-pong, in which the two partners take turns hitting the ball. In this structure students take turns “volleying” ideas or answers orally.

Steps:

a) Teacher poses a problem to which there are several possible responses, or answers.

b) In pairs, students take turns stating responses or solutions orally.

- Students practice taking turns answering.

- Possible questions/topics might be:
 - Places you would like to go on a vacation
 - The names of the Seven Dwarfs
 - Create a story
 - Words that rhyme with _____
 - Steps to make a peanut butter sandwich
 - Ways to let people know you care

Numbered Heads Together**Steps:**

- Students number off 1 – 4. Remind students it is important to remember their number.

- Ask a question or pose a problem, and ask teams to make sure everyone on their team knows the answer, as someone's number will be called at random.

- Possible questions for practice might be:
 - Who is the Road Runner's arch enemy?
 - Who was the main character in the story with the Seven Dwarfs?
 - What is the capital city of Alaska?

Call a number. Ask all students with that number to stand. Now select a team whose student will answer the question. Team members should thank their teammates for being prepared to make their team look good! Pose a new question, and remind students to make sure everyone on their team can answer the question.