

The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins Lesson Plan

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Dr. Seuss's *The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins* lends itself well to a graphing activity. Students love creating and wearing these zany hats.

Students will "collect, sort, organize, and draw conclusions about data using concrete objects, pictures, numbers, and graphs." --*Massachusetts Mathematics Curriculum Framework*

Materials

- *The 500 Hats for Bartholomew Cubbins* by Dr. Seuss
- newspapers
- masking tape
- pipe cleaners
- feathers
- colored markers
- sequins or craft jewels
- craft pom poms

Gather the following materials for your graph:

- new shower curtain liner
- colored masking tape

Set Up and Prepare

Spread out the curtain liner and use the tape to create a large grid. The liner will function as a large piece of graph paper. Be certain the squares are big enough to fit an object like a shoe, stuffed animal, or paper hat.

Directions

Take three sheets of newspaper and open them, fanning them out on top of one another. Place them on top of a student's head, forming the paper to his or her head. Use the masking tape to circle round the newspaper (around forehead level), folding up the edges of the paper to create a brim. Tape brim in place. This should result in a hat that forms to the students head, and looks somewhat like a cowboy hat.

Have students use the markers to color their hats before gluing on assorted craft materials. (They should choose one color marker when decorating.) Try wrapping pipe cleaners around a pencil to create a spiral. After removing them, glue a feather or pom pom to one end, and attach the other end to a hat. This will create a bouncy pipe cleaner effect.

Spread out the shower curtain graph and gather students in a semi-circle. Have students take turns placing their hats on the graph, sorting by:

- A) number of pom poms
- B) number of feathers
- C) number of pipe cleaners
- D) shape
- E) color

Supporting All Learners

Remind students at the beginning of this activity that they will NOT be sharing hats.

Lesson Extensions

Use a large sheet of graph paper to record and label one of the student-generated graphs.

For older students, have them use graph paper to create graphs based on their "Bartholomew" hats.

Related Resources

- Part of Collection:

[Dr. Seuss Author Study](#), [Dr. Seuss](#)

- Subjects:

Cleverness, Charts and Graphs, Arts and Crafts, Colors, Early Math, Creativity and Imagination, Following Directions, Shapes and Sizes, Sorting

- Skills:

Charts and Graphs

- Duration:

2 Class Periods