

Unit 14 Which is bigger?

★Activities to learn how to talk about comparisons of size, height, and length.

Unit Aims

Activities that compare lengths and sizes of objects even interest children that are in kindergarten or in the lower grades of elementary school. The theme of comparison is an interesting topic for anyone. However, this does not mean that children in the middle or upper grades will be interested in the same type of comparison activities as kindergarten or lower grade children. When children reach 4th grade, their interests start to approach those of adults, and so it is necessary to prepare objects that even adults may show interest in comparing. We have prepared some items which children are familiar with but are difficult to quickly come up with an answer when comparing.

Vocabulary

softball soccer ball golf ball volleyball basketball ping-pong ball

Classroom English

Which is bigger?

A soccer ball is bigger.

What's your idea?

Which is longer, red or yellow?

Step of Activities

- (1) Comparing each of the six balls on the page and answering which one is bigger. P.63
- (2) Comparing the size, height, or length of the items found on the page and answering questions. P.64-P.65

- (3) Thinking up a quiz to compare the length of two items and drawing pictures of the items in the space provided. P.65
- (4) Measuring the length of the pieces of yarn seen on the page and finding out which color is longer. P.66

Reference

There are children who like to compare different parts of their bodies and talk about whose hand is biggest or who is tallest. It is probably one of the popular topics of this age group. However, attention must be paid for comparing physical characteristics so that no child feel inferior. When dealing with comparing the lengths of body parts, it is a good idea to encourage the children to compare the differences among their own body parts. Examples would be to have them compare the lengths of their thumbs and little fingers, or to see whether their right and left feet are different sizes.

Other Possible Activities

Design activities to compare items that have come up in other subject areas. Comparing the size of the town the children live in and other neighboring towns could be taken from social studies. Calculating the area of a given square and rectangle and comparing the two is an example taken from math. Such ideas can be taken from other subjects and the size, length, area, and weight of various items can be compared in English.

This is an apple. This is a big orange.

Which is heavier? Let's check.

This apple is 89 grams. This orange is 93 grams.

This orange is heavier.