

Learning Activity for The Long of the Short of It Kindergarten

Objective: The students will be able to estimate the length of various pieces of string before measuring with linking cubes and Base 10 blocks.

Materials for song: pictures of various landmarks, such as the Grande Canyon, an ocean picture, a map of Texas, a little dog, a big dog, a tree

The Long and Short of It!

Lyrics-Pamela Phillips Oland Music-Mark Brymer

I've got a little dog
He's just 8 inches high
But he's as long as 3 hot dogs
I call him my hot dog guy

When my hot dog guy and I
Play beneath a tree
The tree is tall, the dog is short
And in-between is me!

And that's the long and short of it
There's a different length for all
Yeah that's the long and short of it
Heights can be big or small

I climbed a great high hill
To see the sea appear
But Mom said it's a long way off
You can't see there from here

I wanted to see water, that
Became my only goal
So Mom put some a short way off
In Hot Dog's water bowl!!

And that's the long and short of it
There's a different length for all
Yeah that's the long and short of it
Heights can be big or small

There's a grass snake in the woods
He measures only one-inch high
Would you believe he's four feet long
A long and skinny guy

Sometimes he lays by the shed
Out beside the stream
The shed is high, the snake is low
And I am in between!

And that's the long and short of it
There's a different length for all
Yeah that's the long and short of it
Heights can be big or small

Materials for activity: 6-10 pieces of string of varying lengths for each group of 4 students labeled with letters of the alphabet, linking cubes, and Base 10 blocks

Procedure:

1. Discuss each of the pictures and talk about how easy/difficult it would be to measure each. How would you measure?
2. Play the song.

Evaluation: Teacher observation when measuring. Choose 5 different pieces of string to measure with linking cubes and base 10 blocks. Line up linking cubes, then Base 10 blocks along the string. Write the number of each on your recording sheet. Students will illustrate how the measurements change when the lengths of the units of measure change. As an extension, students can measure each other using different units.