

Oklahoma Panhandle State University
Math-Ese Workshop

October 7, 2006

“Comprehension of Word Problems”

The student will learn to solve word problems involving ordinal numbers by learning to draw a diagram to help understand and obtain the correct answer.

Nancy Lines

Name: Nancy Lines

Grade Level/Subject: 4th Grade Math

Topic: Ordinal Numbers

Objectives:

The students will be able to draw a diagram to help them solve a problem involving ordinal numbers.

Students will be able to identify, illustrate, and locate the correct position of any given ordinal number from first to twentieth.

Objectives (P.A.S.S.)

Standard 1: Problem Solving

1. Use drawings to solve problems.

Materials: Cards with the ordinal numbers (first to twentieth).

Worksheet

Math logs.

Manipulatives. (Smarty's work!)

Introduction:

Begin by discussing what is an ordinal number. If the students do not know, ask them what other word they think of when they hear the word ordinal. Give them hints, such as: we use ordinal numbers in school to label a group of students, etc.

Instructional process:

1. Ask the students to line up. Ask each student what ordinal number they are in the line.
2. Give them the ordinal number cards and time them to see how quickly they can put the numbers in their correct order.
3. Line the students against the wall except for one student. Give them an ordinal number card and tell them to get in that place in line.

4. You could also use different manipulatives and ask the students to put a certain object in an ordinal position in line. For example: Put 6 smarties in a row. The fifth smarty must be white.
5. Give the students word problems to solve having to do with ordinal numbers. Example: Sam is 3rd in and George is 8th in line at the show. How many people are between Sam and George?
6. Demonstrate how they can draw a diagram to help solve a problem.

Closure:

Give the students an ordinal number worksheet.
Ask the students to write in their math logs.

Assessment:

The students will be assessed by the worksheet and their responses in their math logs.

Modifications:

Advanced Students: Ask the students to write a problem using larger ordinal numbers. They must solve their problem, then give it to another student.

Special Needs: Put pictures illustrating the ordinal numbers on their cards. Allow them to learn and understand the first ten ordinal numbers before moving on to the larger ones.

Reflection:

Getting the students out of their desks and modeling the ordinal numbers was both helpful and fun. The students who drew the models to help with ordinal problem solving were usually always successful. If a student missed the question, it is because they did not draw a model.