

Clapping It Out

Purpose

Students will practice counting the number of syllables in words.

Materials

For the teacher: chalk, chalkboard

For the students: word cards with one-syllable and multi-syllable words

Activity

A. Pre-Activity Preparation

Draw four numbered columns with lines between them on the chalkboard (this chart will be used for dividing words into syllables).

B. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Tell the students that you have some words in your head and you have to clap them out.
2. Explain that you are going to divide the words into syllables, or sound parts.
3. Select some word cards of various lengths. Practice reading the words with the students and clapping them out (e.g., *cat*, *butter*, *banana*, *tarantula*).
4. Tell students that they will be coming up one by one to read the words and that the class will have to listen for the number of syllables in each word.

C. Clap It Out

1. Have students come up one at a time to select and read a word card with you.
2. Have the student clap the word out by syllable parts.
3. With the class, decide how many syllables each word contains.
4. Write the word on the chalkboard under the appropriate number of syllables.

EXTENDING THE ACTIVITY



Play this game again with the short rhythmic sentences of poetry written for children. Write the poem on the board. Read each sentence slowly and keep clapping through the sentence as you emphasize each word with your hand or the pointer. Name how many syllables are in each word and how many are in the entire sentence.

connecting across the curriculum



Science


Play this game using words associated with seasons or weather.


Standards Link
K.1.15


Questions for Review


Basic Concepts and Processes

Ask students these questions as they practice recognizing syllables:

 Can you clap the syllables in “basketball?”

 How many are there?

 What is a two-syllable word?

 How did you think of that word?
