Rich Maths Events

Dr Nic and Dr Shane are visiting schools for two hour maths events, using Dragonistics data cards. The aim is for children to be engaged in and enthusiastic about mathematics. The events are for children ages 7 to 12.

Programme

Introduction: What mathematicians do (about 15 minutes)

- Mathematicians like a challenge
- Mathematicians notice things and wonder
- Mathematicians make mistakes and learn
- Mathematicians work together and alone
- Mathematicians have fun

Part 1:
Whole group activity - get to know the Dragonistics data cards

Using the Dragonistics data cards, we get children to notice and wonder things, as do mathematicians. As a group we move around and find answers to some of the things the children wonder about.

Part 2:
Small group statistical investigations

The students are put into groups of three and given their own set of dragons to explore. They discuss, summarise, and look at what other groups are doing.

Break (Five minutes)

Part 3:
Student choice of open-ended activity - mathematical ideas

Children choose which further activity to do, and how many people to have in a group. The tasks are set out for them, with instructions. The tasks may include:

- Fair shares - dividing dragons equally into different numbers of groups
- Invent a game
- Circuit activity – a puzzle involving comparisons of dragons
- Using connectors – making a network of dragons, connected in different ways.

Closing discussion

Dr Nic and Dr Shane discuss what have they learned and review what it means to be a mathematician.

The teachers' role

Teachers have opportunities to see their students engaged in rich tasks in mathematics and statistics. There is an accompanying Facebook Group, where teachers can get and give support in implementing their own rich tasks in mathematics.

Maths Event Outline   Provided by Statistics Learning Centre: StatsLC.com.

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