Listening and Following Directions
An Activity That Challenges Students To Pay Attention To Details
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An Activity That Challenges Students To Pay Attention To Details

Teacher Notes

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Lesson Plan

This activity is designed to challenge students to listen closely to directions and complete tasks in the correct locations on a grid.

Make copies of both grids. It is ok for the grids to be copied on both sides of a piece of paper.

Give each student a copy of the grids.

Read the following statement to the students:
We are going to do an activity which requires you to carefully listen to my directions. I will only say each direction once and it is your job to follow it. I will first tell you where to put the pencil on the paper I have given you. I will tell you a short story which will require you to move your pencil up, down, left or right to a new box. I will tell you to draw pictures in different boxes as I tell you the story. Are there any questions? (pause) Now lets begin.

A diagram is included on the grids for those students that have difficulties knowing the direction of left and right.

Begin to read the directions for Activity Number 1 – Summer Camp I

After reading the first direction you may wish to circulate around the classroom to make sure students have their pencil in the right grid location.

The second direction allows the students to self check if they followed the directions correctly.

After reading all the directions for Activity Number 1 you can check student answers using the answer document provided.

Follow the same directions for Activity Number 2 – Summer Camp II.

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Read the following at the beginning of both activities.
We are going to do an activity which requires you to carefully listen to my directions. I will only say each
direction once and it is your job to follow it. I will first tell you where to put the pencil on the paper I
have given you. I will tell you a short story which will require you to move your pencil up, down, left or
right to a new box. I will tell you to draw pictures in different boxes as I tell you the story. Are there any
questions? (pause) Now lets begin.

Activity Number 1: Summer Camp I (Grid with the star on it)
1. Put your pencil on the black box in the lower right hand corner of the paper. (J-10). This is where
the story is going to start.
2. Finally, after months of waiting, the day you are leaving for summer camp has arrived. The bus
ride to camp is very long and you do not get there until the sun has set. Move your pencil seven
boxes to the left. (Pause) When you walk out of the bus you look up and see more stars than
you have ever seen before. There should be a star on the box your pencil landed on (C-10). If
your pencil did not land on the box with the start you did not correctly follow the directions. Be
careful to listen closely to my directions. Make sure your pencil is on the box with the star.
3. Once everyone is off the bus your camp counselor finds you and you walk down a straight gravel
road to what you think is a little house. Move your pencil up six spaces. (Pause) This is your
cabin and it is where you will be sleeping during your time at camp. The cabin has a door and
just one window. Draw your cabin in the box your pencil is (C-4). (Pause)
4. You walk into your cabin, unpack, lie down on your bed and quickly fall asleep. Before you know
it you hear a bell ringing in the distance. You know the bell means it is time to get up. You make
your bed and head out the door for breakfast. You really don't know where you are going but
you just follow the crowd down a straight road. Move your pencil four spaces to the right
(Pause). (Pause) You sit down at the table with 5 other campers. On the table are large plates of
food and a smaller circular plate for each of the campers. The large plates of food are passed
around and each camper takes what he/she wants. You take 2 pieces of bacon, one spoonful of
scrambled eggs and one cinnamon roll. Draw your plate in the box where your pencil is (G-4).
(Pause)
5. After breakfast you head down a winding road to your first activity, swimming. Move your pencil
down three spaces, (Pause) to the left five spaces (Pause) and down two spaces (Pause). When
you get to the lake your counselor says, “The sun is smiling down on you today so make sure you
put on sunblock.” Draw the sun the counselor is talking about in the box where your pencil is
(B-9). (Pause)
6. Because you are such a good swimmer you are put into the advanced swimmer group. You take
a long walk on a curvy dock to deeper water. Move your pencil up seven spaces, (Pause) three
spaces to the right, (Pause) down four spaces (Pause) and two spaces to the right (Pause). Finally
you reach the end of the long dock. The counselor explains each swimmer will get a partner and
each pair will get a swimming number. The swimming numbers will be counted off whenever
the lifeguard blows her whistle. You are excited because your partner is the camper who shares
a bunk bed with you. It is very important for you to remember your swimming number. It is your
lucky number, which is 3, added to itself. Three plus three, simple. Write your swimming
number in the box where your pencil is (G-6). (Pause)
7. When you are finished swimming you get out and sit on the bank to dry off. You are watching
two sail boats the race around a complicated course. The sail boats must go around buoys in a
specific order. You trace the course with your finger. Move your pencil two spaces to the right,
(Pause) up four spaces, (Pause) and to the left 4 spaces (Pause). The sails on the boats are
shaped like triangles and have two circles on each of them. Draw a picture of the sail in the box
your pencil is in (E-2).
Activity Number 2: Summer Camp II (Grid with smiley face on it.)

1. Put your pencil on the black box in the middle of the paper (E-5). This is where the summer camp story is going to continue.

2. You wake up on the second day of camp with a smile on your face. Move your pencil three spaces to the right (Pause) and then up three spaces (Pause). There should be a smiley face in the box that your pencil landed on (H-2). If your pencil did not land on the box with the smiley face you did not correctly follow the directions. Make sure your pencil is on the box with the smiley face.

3. On the second day of camp you and your cabin mates are going on a hike to the top of a mountain. You and your friends all pile into a bus and begin to sing songs as the bus travels down the road. At first the road is very straight. Move your pencil down 6 boxes (Pause). You love singing the songs with the other campers. Your favorite song is about roasting marshmallows on a camp fire. During the song all the kids on the bus scream, “and all I had left were three burnt marshmallows on my stick.” Draw a picture of the marshmallows in the box your pencil is in (H-8).

4. When the bus stops you look at the mountains and wonder if you will be able to make it to the top. Everyone starts to hike the winding trail. Turn after turn, it seems like you are getting nowhere. Move your pencil 5 spaces to the left, (Pause) two spaces up, (Pause) one space to the left (Pause) and two spaces up. Just when your legs are getting tired the counselor yells from the front, “I can see Old Man Rock.” When the other campers hear the counselor you notice they move a bit faster. Suddenly you find the strength to keep up with them. As you round a corner you see your counselor standing right next to what you know instantly is Old Man Rock. All the campers take off their back packs and start drinking their water, and you do the same. The counselor explains that Old Man Rock is half way up the mountain! As you and the other campers rest you look at the rock, and it really does look like an old man. There are lines in the rock that look like hair, two dots that look like eyes and a crack that looks like a very funny smile. But the feature of the rock that stands out the most was a piece right in the middle. It was the old man’s nose and boy was it big! Draw the Old Man Rock in the box where your pencil is (B-4).

5. Soon everyone is hiking up the mountain again. The trail continues to wind past all sorts of great views. Move your pencil four spaces to the right, (Pause) down five spaces (Pause) and one space to the left. (Pause) As you get close to the top of the mountain you suddenly notice there are no more trees. The last tree you see is a dead one with two branches on the left side and one branch on the right side. Draw the last tree you saw in the box where your pencil is (E-9).

6. Suddenly your counselor yells, “We are almost to the top.” Move your pencil to the left two spaces, (Pause) up two spaces (Pause) and to the right six spaces. (Pause) When your finally reach the top of the mountain you and the other campers are so hungry you immediately eat the packed lunches that were brought along. As you eat the counselor tells a story about a man who built a house on top of the mountain. You can still see where the foundation once was. The counselor explains that the house had a large door for the man, a small door for his dog, one window on the right side of the doors and a chimney on the left side of the house. Draw the house that the man built in the box where your pencil is (I-7).

7. On top of the mountain you can see for miles and miles. You use your finger to trace the path of a river you can see meandering through the forest below. Move your pencil four spaces up, (Pause) six spaces to the left, (Pause) five spaces down (Pause) and one space to the right. Looking at the river from so far up it looks like a dog. A lake looks like the dog’s head. You can only see two of the dog’s legs, but the funny thing is it looks like the dog has two tails! Draw the dog which you imagined because of the river in the box where your pencil is (D-8).
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Answer Document

1. Start
2. (H-2) Smiley face (given)
3. (H-8) Stick with three burnt marshmallows
4. (B-4) Old Man Rock – lines in rock to look like hair, two dots for eyes, crack for a very funny smile, a very large nose
5. (E-9) Dead tree with two branches on the left side and one branch on the right side
6. (I-7) House with large door, small door, window on the right side and a chimney on the left side of the house
2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

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