



The Elf on the Shelf[®]

TEACHER RESOURCE CENTER

Kindergarten

Using the Scout Elf to help with Counting, Sorting, and Shapes (Math)

CC standard: Classify objects into given categories; count the number of objects in each category and sort the categories by count. Correctly name shapes regardless of their orientation or overall size.

Materials:

- Starburst candies (one for each student)
- Note from the classroom elf (page 3)
- Construction paper (one sheet of red, orange, pink and yellow hung in each corner of your classroom)
- “Count and Sort” Elf Worksheet (page 4)

Lesson:

Before the students arrive to class, place a Starburst candy on each student’s desk, along with the note from your elf.

Cut out the note on page 3 that reads:

You have been good, so I brought you a treat.

First you must sort them, then you can eat.

Listen close to your teacher for all of the rules

‘Cause I’m going to tell Santa about you here at school.

Best, _____

As they arrive, remind them the elf is watching and brought them a treat, but you have been given instructions for a learning game from Santa that the kids need to play before they can get their treat. The elf will be watching very closely to see what they are learning and how well they are working with others.

Ask the students to identify their “treat.” Then ask them to identify the shape of each candy (a square).

What color is the candy? Pink, orange, yellow or red?

Tell the students that Santa wants to know how many of each colored candy the elf brought to your class, so they need to “group” them by color. Then ask each student with a yellow Starburst to stand and walk to the yellow corner where you have previously hung the construction paper. Repeat with each color, sending each student to a color-coded corner that corresponds with his or her candy.

Once the students are in their corners, have them sit in a line. They should place their Starburst in front of them as they sit. Then, the teacher will direct the class as a whole to turn their attention to each individual corner one-at-a-time. The teacher should then ask a group to stand. Together, the class will identify the category color and then count aloud the number of children which should equal how many Starburst candies are in each category color. Remind students the entire time that the elf is watching for the best-behaved students.



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As the teacher, record the number of candies in each color-coded group on the board. Use tally marks and then count them to get the total.

When you are finished, explain to the students how they:

1. Identified the shapes of their North Pole treat as a square.
2. Recognized that their squares were different colors or categories.
3. Sorted the category colors by breaking into groups.
4. Correctly counted the number of colored candy in each category.

Let the students return to their desks with their candy, where they can then eat them.

Activity/Follow up:

Now ask the students to complete the worksheet provided by using the skills they just used. Separate the presents by color, then count them to help the elf pack Santa's sleigh. Also, be sure kids remember to thank the elf for bringing them a treat.

Use this poem as a note from your classroom elf! Print out as many copies you need to provide one for each of your student's desks.

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Kindergarten

Sorting and counting
colors and shapes.



Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

These presents need to be sorted! Follow the key below and color each present with its proper color. Then, count how many of each color there are.

- Color all of the square presents red. How many can you find? _____
- Color all of the rectangle presents green. How many can you find? _____
- Color all of the circle presents blue. How many can you find? _____

