



The Elf on the Shelf[®]

TEACHER RESOURCE CENTER

First Grade

Using the Scout Elf to help Collect and Interpret Data (Math)

CC standard: Organize, represent, and interpret data with up to three categories. Ask and answer questions about the total number of data points, how many in each category, and how many more or less are in one category than in another.

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)
- Data 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."

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 entire class to focus on each corner one-at-a-time. For example, ask all the children under yellow 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. Recognized that their candies were four different colors or categories.
2. Sorted the category colors by breaking into groups.
3. Correctly counted the number of colored candy in each category.

Let the students return to their desks with their candy. Now it is time to interpret the data. Give each child the candy data worksheet. As a class—the students should use the data collected in the class to provide the following information onto their worksheet:

How many red candies were there?

How many pink candies were there?

How many yellow candies were there?

How many orange candies were there?

Activity/Follow up:

Now ask the students to complete the worksheet provided on page 4 using the totals collected as a class. 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.

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, _____



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First Grade

Counting, sorting,
and adding colors.



Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Write the total number of each color in the boxes below.

RED

YELLOW

PINK

ORANGE

Are there more yellow candies than red? Yes or No

Are there more pink candies than orange? Yes or No

Are there less red candies than orange? Yes or No

Now solve the problems below using the totals!

RED

+

YELLOW

=

--

PINK

+

ORANGE

=

--

ORANGE

+

RED

=

--

