

THE MATHS GAME

Active learning: Using different types of activities can help to engage your pupils and make them more interested in the lesson. How does teacher Titus learn this in this classroom incident?

SCENE 1

CLASSROOM

LATE MORNING

SFX:

SOUND OF CHALK WRITING ON A BOARD.
SOON THE WRITING ENDS

TITUS:

Come on class (LOUDLY) All stand! Sit! Stand!
Sit! Stand

SFX:

SOUND OF STANDING AND SITTING
MOVEMENTS ACCOMPANY THE DRILL.

TITUS:

That's better. Now all of you sit down. You
cannot avoid learning and memorizing the
multiplication table.

SFX:

SOUND OF SITTING MOVEMENT.

TITUS:

I don't want to see anybody dozing again. Is
that clear?

ALL:

Yes Mr. Titus

TITUS:

Now as I was saying, memorizing the

multiplication table is something you cannot avoid. You all need to have it at your finger tips. It is the foundation for the solution of many mathematical problems.

SFX: SOUND OF FAINT QUIET GIGGLING.

TITUS: Efe and Adjua, stand up both of you

SFX: CHAIR SCRAPING AS THEY STAND UP

TITUS: Now, tell me Adjua, what is five times nine?

ADJUA: (timidly) em...em....five times nine is em...em
(she stops)

TITUS: Efe, what is Five times ten?

EFE: five times ten is ehm ...ehm .thirty six
Sir

CHILDREN: laughing.

TITUS: shut up the rest of you! (TO THE TWO GIRLS)
Instead of paying attention you were busy playing. Well since you want to play. I am going to give you the chance to satisfy yourself. Both of you come out and stand in front of the class till the end of the lesson.

EFE: but... but sir

SFX: SOUND OF SHUFFLING FEET ON TO OFF

TITUS: Now who can tell me what five times ten is?

SFX: SILENCE

SFX: (OFF) SOUNDS OF TEACHING FROM OTHER CLASSES

TITUS: oh goodness. This is preposterous.

MUSIC BRIDGE

SCENE 2

SCHOOL COMPOUND MORNING

LATE

SFX: CHILDREN PLAYING IN THE BACKGROUND

EFE: [singing] not because I'm rich and not because I'm poor

GIRLS: [singing] not because I push you out of the game, so if you say 2 you are out of the game so

EFE: 5!

GIRL 1: 10!

ADJUA 15!

EFE 20!

SFX: THE SINGING DIES OFF SUDDENLY

TITUS: (off to on) why did you stop?

GIRLS: we are sorry Si, we did not hear the bell ringing sir.

TITUS: Sorry? No No No don't be sorry. but I thought you children didn't know the multiplication table... how come you are using it to play a game?

SFX CHILDREN KEEP QUIET FEAR

TITUS: (cheerfully) Never mind. I have a good idea. come back with me to the class

MUSIC BRIDGE

SCENE 3

THE CLASSROOM

SFX: SOUND OF DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING;
SHUFFLING FEET

TITUS: Stay in front with me here. Now children I want you all to listen carefully. Adjua and Efe are going to teach you a multiplication song game and we shall all play the game together to recite our multiplication table. Over to you Efe and Adjua.

EFE: [singing] not because I'm rich and not because I'm poor

GIRLS: [singing] not because I push you out of the game, so if you say 4 you are out of the game so

EFE: 5!

CHILDREN: 10!

ADJUA 15!

CHILDREN 20!

EFE 25!

CHILDREN 30!

TITUS: hold on class...[game stops]...you mean you all know the game?

CHILDREN: Yes Sir

TITUS: but why did you all not tell me about this so we could use it for our lesson?

CHILDREN: (CHORUS AN ANSWER) You never asked us sir,

TITUS: [mutters to himself] what an oversight

MUSIC BRIDGE

Are there any games and songs that you could use in your classroom to help pupils learn more easily? Could you use them in mathematics? science?

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