

THE DATES QUIZ

Teacher's Notes

Aim

Giving dates.

Materials

A calendar page showing a past month in the current year.

Duration

Teacher preparation: 15 minutes. Playing the game: 20 minutes.

Language focus

Dates on the calendar, e.g. 23rd April.

Aim of the game

To answer questions about specific dates correctly and occupy three dates in a row.

Preparation

Prepare a list of true/false questions, one for each of the days in the month you have chosen. See the example below.

Introduction

Ask the children when their birthdays are. Repeat dates and encourage the class to use the correct forms. You can make this into a memory game, by asking different children in the class to say their birthdays and then asking them to sit in the order of the months of their birthdays. See if the others with birthdays in the same month can remember the exact date of each other's birthdays. Teams can then be made up by dividing the group from January to June and from July to December. (If this does not give you two roughly equal teams you will have to change the dividing date.)

Playing the game (2 teams)

- 1 If you have not done the introduction activity, divide the class into two teams. One team are crosses and the other are circles. Stick up the calendar page showing a previous month or write it up on the board yourself so that all the children can see. Practise the correct form of dates by pointing to certain dates and getting pupils to say them, e.g. the 5th of April.
- 2 Team A begins by saying a specific date, e.g. the 5th of April. Look at your list and read out the true/false statement for this date. The team can confer and should give one answer. If this is correct, that date is marked with a cross, and Team A now occupies it.
- 3 It is now Team B's turn to choose a date and answer the corresponding question. If they answer correctly, their date is marked with a circle.
- 4 Teams take it in turns to choose dates in order to occupy three dates together, and try to prevent the other team doing the same. The first team to achieve three crosses or circles in a row are the winners.

Example true/false statements

1st January was Anna's birthday. T/F?

2nd January was a Monday. T/F?

On 3rd January the shops were open. T/F?

You didn't have school on 4th January. T/F?

On 5th January it rained. T/F?

6th January was a (national holiday/local celebration). T/F?

On 7th January we went to Madrid. T/F?

On 8th January we had an English class. T/F?

On 9th January the shops were closed. T/F?

To make up true/false statements you can use children's birthdays, school events, local or religious festivals, and facts about the class which you can collect by talking to the children about their weekends etc.