

DRAMA GAMES

Day 36



OVERVIEW

In this lesson, research groups act out their research project in front of the class. The goal is to help the students become more comfortable in front of a group and to think about their project from a different perspective. The students will also practice answering questions from the audience about their presentation. This lesson emphasizes creativity and fun. There is no writing involved which may be a welcome break for some students. You may want to add a day and have students prepare the skits during one period and perform them the following day.

Focus Question: *How can improvisational techniques help us express ideas better?*

SCIENCE SKILLS

- ✓ Students will be able to plan a skit about the research project.
- ✓ Students will be able to speak loudly and clearly in front of the class.
- ✓ Students will be able to respond to questions from the audience about the research project.

BACKGROUND

Background information describing the concepts in this lesson is presented in the following sections:

Section IV: Presentations – *Oral Presentations*

MATERIALS

- ✓ colored paper
- ✓ markers
- ✓ scissors
- ✓ tape
- ✓ string or yarn

DEVELOPMENT OF LESSON

1. Have students join their research groups.
2. Give groups about 20 minutes to come up with a skit that illustrates their research project. For example, a group that compared insects around deciduous and conifer trees might have one student going out to do the research and hang the traps. Other students could act as insects getting caught in the trap and expressing the insect's reaction. The group would make sure to show which traps caught more insects. Then the student who placed the traps can go check them, identify or count the insects and record results. Encourage students to be creative and use any of the materials to make quick props.



3. Perform skits in front of the class.
4. Following each skit, select at least five audience members to ask a question about the research project or the skit. Have different members of the group respond to different questions. Each student should have a chance to ask and answer at least one question.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you like best about performing and watching the skits?
2. What things must you remember to do when performing in front of an audience?
3. How do you feel when you speak in front of an audience?
4. What can you do to feel more confident when you speak in front of an audience?
5. As an audience member, what do speakers or actors do that helps you enjoy the performance?
6. What kinds of things make it more difficult for the audience to understand or hear the speaker?
7. What kinds of questions are appropriate and inappropriate to ask of another group?
8. How do you feel when the audience asks you questions about the project? Why?