

# Rainbow

## Pocket Chart

Great for graphing, sorting, classifying, or organizing!



Children often learn abstract concepts through visualization. What better way to teach graphing, ordering, and categorizing than with the Rainbow Pocket Chart! The chart has been divided into five sections for ease of learning: Red, Yellow, Green, Blue, Purple. Each colored section of the chart includes two pockets to fill with cards or pictures that help represent classification, sorting, and graphing.

## Using the Rainbow Pocket Chart

This guide contains hands-on activity ideas for use with the Rainbow Pocket Chart. The chart's five different sections provide a wonderful opportunity to teach children about:

- Counting
- Reading
- Language mechanics
- Time
- Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying, and Dividing
- Science themes
- Social Studies topics, including timelines



## Graphing

Help students build graphing skills with the Rainbow Pocket Chart. Start by surveying students on their favorite kind of animal. Select five different animals like a cat, dog, fish, hamster, and rabbit, and write the name of each animal on a card or glue its picture to the card. Then, place each card in a different colored segment of the chart. Have children write their names on a card and place it in the section of the pocket chart with their favorite animal. (For compatibility with the pocket chart, Learning Resources recommends using word card sizes of  $2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 4''$  and picture sizes of  $2\frac{3}{4}'' \times 2\frac{3}{4}''$ .)



Ask questions such as: "Which animal is the most popular in the class?" and "Which animal is the second most popular?" Explain to students that they have created a bar graph as a class. For older students, extend this lesson into other areas, such as math. For example, a survey of favorite animals can lead to discussions of percentages and fractions.

## Ordering

Teach a variety of ordering activities, from ordering words to creating a sentence to ordering pictures of clocks from the beginning of a day to the end of the day. Also, use the chart to reinforce paragraph-writing skills. Start by writing the following words on cards, one word per card, and place them in order in the red pocket:

*"Ted was hungry for a turkey sandwich."*

Then, write the following on cards, and mix up the words in the appropriate pocket.

Yellow section: *First, he took out the turkey and bread.*

Green: *Next, he toasted the bread.*

Blue: *Then, he put turkey on the toast.*

Purple: *Finally, his sandwich was ready.*

Encourage children to move the words around to create a coherent sentence and read the paragraph together as a class when completed.



## Classifying

Help students classify objects with the Rainbow Pocket Chart. This is especially useful in science. For example, you can teach the differences among types of animals like birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

Start by writing animal types on cards, one type per card, and place each card in its own segment of the Rainbow Pocket Chart. Ask students, "What kind of skin outside do reptiles have?" "Do all reptiles have this skin?" "Name some examples of reptiles." Work through each category in this manner and explain how animal types differ. Then, encourage children to find pictures in magazines of the different kinds of animals, cut them out, glue them to cards, and place them in the correct category. Students can list the characteristics of each animal on the backside of the card.

Extend this lesson into a social studies activity on the kind of climate each type of animal lives in and why.

## Organizing

The Rainbow Pocket Chart is also useful as an organization tool. The pockets are durable to store manipulatives or hall passes. Also, use it to display classroom announcements, inform students of upcoming projects in each curriculum area, current events, field trips, and student names for jobs and tasks.



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