

Pets in the Classroom Lesson Using Guinea Pigs

Completed with 2nd and 3rd Grades

Lesslie Elementary – Delora Idehenre

Hey Mr. Cheesesticks: What's observable and what's measurable?

3.P.2A Matter exists in several states and is classified based on measurable and observable properties.

Objectives:

- Students will be able to distinguish between observable and measurable properties.
- Students will be able to choose the appropriate tools to collect the necessary data.

Day 1

- Students will be introduced to the guinea pig (Mr. Cheesesticks).
- Students will sketch a picture of the guinea pig into their science notebook.
- Whole class discussion - What did you notice or observe about Mr. Cheesesticks?
- Teacher will record observations on note cards, sentence strips, or chart paper.
- Whole class or Small Group Discussion - What are some questions you have about Mr. Cheesesticks?
- Teacher will ask students which observations & questions can be answered by just watching or observing Mr. Cheesesticks. (Teacher can make a T-chart to visually sort information).
- Teacher will ask students which need tools to gather the information.
- Teacher will introduce the concept that some properties can be observed (Ex. coloring, characteristics like tail vs. no tail, eye coloring, whiskers, ears) these are things we can sketch when we observe Mr. Cheesesticks.
- Teacher will introduce that some properties need tools to measure before we know that information (Ex. Weight, length, how long he sleeps).
- Teacher can have students add more detail to their sketch using the class' observations.

LITTLE
CHEESE



Day 2

- Teacher reviews the discussion points about information that can be collected by observing and information that needs tools to collect the data because it needs to be measured.
- Teacher informs class that they will collect data that can be measured and introduces the concept of length.
- Discussion - What tools might be helpful to find out the length or how long Mr. Cheesesticks is? Chart the responses. Students may wish to add a list of tools that are good for length in their notebook.
- After a discussion about the tools that are good for length (Ex. ruler, yard/meter stick, measuring tape, etc.) Have students go to their sketch, add the word length. Then the teacher should gently place the pet on a ruler or measuring tape to get a close measurement of the length.
- The teacher can follow the same format and collect the weight using a balance scale being careful to consider the animal's safety. (My guinea had adjusted to the class and being handled at the point of this lesson).

Closure - Have students discuss the difference between measurable and observable properties. Writing a response in their notebook is good practice. You may also wish for them to draw the tool besides the data for length and weight.