

Personal Chronology

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Lesson Overview: Each student will draw ten significant events in their lives on index cards, which will then be shuffled and traded with another student. Students will try to reconstruct the chronology of their partner's life by placing the cards in correct order.

Objectives: Students will

- Identify elements of their personal development pattern
- Construct and interpret visuals
- Sequence chronological information

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS):

Social Studies, Grade 4

- Social Studies 114.6 (22B), analyze information by sequencing
- Social Studies 114.6 (23D), create written and visual material

English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 4

- English, LanguageArts, and Reading (13D), interpret and use graphic sources of information
- English, LanguageArts, and Reading (25A), produce visuals to complement and extend meanings

Art, Grade 4

- Art 117.14 (2A), integrate a variety of ideas about self, life events, family, and community in original artworks
- Art 117.14 (2B), design original artworks

Materials: ten index cards for each student, colored markers

Activity:

Step 1: Each student draws ten significant events in his or her life on the index cards (one drawing per card). No words or numbers are allowed in the drawings.

Step 2: Students shuffle the cards out of sequence and trade with their neighbor. Students then try to arrange their neighbor's cards in the correct order.

Step 3: When they are finished, each student explains to the other what he or she thinks is the correct order and why. Then, the student who drew the cards explains the correct order, if necessary.

Closure: Students tape the index cards on the wall next to each child's picture, thus illustrating the chronology of each child's life.

Extension: Students remove one or two cards from their neighbor's stack. Discuss what happens to the sequence of events (i.e. some things are left out and are thus unknown to others) when chronological information is missing. This is the predicament archaeologists face when artifacts have been removed from a site by looters or relic collectors. Important information about the people who lived at that site is lost forever.