

HOOKS to Snag Student Interest

Hooks are ways to snag student interest. They are short activities related to the upcoming task. They are intended to grab attention in the first minutes of a small group.

Use a hook to help focus a jittery group or a group that has a difficult time settling in. Use it to build interest in a new activity or to "jazz up" a recurring activity that has become sluggish. The following are a few suggestions to get you started.

General items:

- Theme related games
- Brain Quest style cards
- 20 questions game
- Newspaper articles
- Theme books, magazines, poetry, cartoons, puzzles, riddles and jokes
- Artifacts

Language Arts

- Special dictionaries, word books
- Award winning books
- Articles that demonstrate the next topic (verbs, nouns, descriptive words)

Math

- Hands on materials (cubes, tangrams, foam dice, quiet beanbags)
- Card games, flash cards, story problem cards

Social Studies

- Current events
- Maps, globes, atlases

Science

- Touchable objects

Art

- Art prints, artsy note cards, posters, magazines
- Art supplies previously not used

Be ready with the hook when students arrive. Present it with enthusiasm so students will settle down to listen to learn more about it. Hooks are an easy way to re-energize a group or activity.