



Beach Ball Globe Toss Activity

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Background:

Discuss the difference between maps and globes with students, what they represent and what they are used for.

Stimulating Questions:

- What is a globe? What does it represent? What would we use a globe for?
- What is a map? What would we use maps for?
- What color do we usually use to represent water on the earth's surface?
- What color do we usually use to represent land on the earth's surface?

Materials:

- Inflatable beach ball globe
- Very small round stickers
- Chalk/dry erase board, overhead or large paper and appropriate writing utensil
- Open space in a room for the children to form a circle

Procedures:

1. Give each student a small, round sticker and instruct them to put it on their right thumb.
2. Have the students form a circle, leaving a little space between each other.
3. Instruct the students that you will toss them the beach ball and that they are to catch it with both hands, then *freeze*. It is important that they not move their hands once they have caught the ball.
4. Ask the student what place on the globe is under their right thumb, under the sticker. Land or water? Use a chart to tally the results as you toss the globe. You can simply label two side of a vertical line, **land | water**
*[*Please note, they will sometimes have their sticker on both land and water. Ask them which one it appears to be touching the most. They may insist it is equal, so simply mark both land and water.]*
5. After tossing the globe to each student or when you have achieved the results you wanted, ask the students to now add up each side. Now analyze and discuss the results. *Why do you think we had more water than land?* Take another look, a closer look at the beach ball globe, specifically at the areas of the earth's surface covered by land versus water.
6. For more advanced students, include some of the following questions: Is your location...
 - a. Near the Equator?
 - b. North or south of the Equator?
 - c. Near the Tropic of Cancer/Tropic of Capricorn?
 - d. Near the North/South Pole?
 - e. Inside the Arctic/Antarctic Circle?
 - f. Name the continent.
 - g. Name the country.
 - h. Name the ocean or body of water.
 - i. Give an example of this place's relative location.
 - j. Estimate this place's absolute location (use latitude and longitude estimates).