

The following activity will help students understand why it is important for describing position and determining when an object has moved.

Activity:

Step 1:

Initiate the lesson by having students share what they know about position and motion. Some prior knowledge will possibly be in place depending on student experience and prior learning.

Step 2:

Ask students why is it important to know where something is at. Ask students how they can tell when something moves.

Step 3:

First arrange objects in different locations in the classroom.

Next create a class list of position words with children like: top, above, bottom, next to, under, below, between, under, next to, in front. Write these words on the board.

Select an object and describe where it is. Can the students guess the object? Do this several times with other objects in the room.

Make groups of 3-4 students. Give each group 4 blocks of different colors (you could use any 4 kinds of objects) and a small box. Using the materials have students arrange (move) objects and give a description to the other group members describing where a certain object/block is using the list of position words we have used.

Discuss how things moved. We moved them physically. Discuss about how when something moves, its position changes.

The lesson is adapted from a SERC lesson. The complete lesson can be found at <http://serc.carleton.edu/sp/mnstep/activities/35518.html>