



Pair Up

Description

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Have students work in pairs during a competitive card game.

Supplies

- Deck of cards for every 4 students

How to Play

1. Pair students together and give each pair half a deck of cards.
2. Explain that students will be working together with their partner to solve a math problem. The face cards can be wild cards or they can be removed from the deck.
3. Let them know that each round you will announce a different number. Pairs must work together to find two cards in their deck that they can use to add up to that number.
4. The different math problems will depend on the grade level of your students. For example:
 - What two cards added together equal: _____
 - What two cards subtracted from each other equal: _____
 - What two cards multiplied together equal: _____
5. There may be multiple card combinations that correctly answer some of these problems.
6. Explain that the first pair to show you two cards that correctly answer the math problem earn a point for that round.
7. Multiple rounds can be played until time is up. The pair with the most points at the end wins.

Activity Prompts for Reflection

- What did you do to make sure you used kind words during this activity?
- What made it difficult to work together during this activity?
- Can anyone give a compliment to someone else based on how they did during this activity?

Other Ways to Play

- To make this game easier, the leader can put one card down in the middle and pairs must only think of the other card that goes with it to answer the problem. For example, the leader puts a 2 in the middle and would say “2 plus what equals 5?” The first pair that shows a 3 would earn a point for that round.
- To help all students get practice, you can have them put their answer cards face down in front of them. After 10 seconds have all pairs flip their cards over and any of the pairs with correct card answers receive a point for that round.

Additional Notes

- Use the [SEL Activity Prompts](#) to tie other SEL competencies to this activity.

Category

1. Activities
2. Relationship Skills

Sel-competency

1. Relationship Skills

Allotted-time

1. 15 minutes

Themes

1. Work Together-Teamwork