



Rolls to the Empty Bowl



- Lesson:** **Time:** This activity is designed to take approximately one class period, 45 minutes.
- Materials:** Small bowls (or paper plates) large enough to hold 12 color tiles. (One bowl for each pair of students).
- Color tiles (12 per pair of students)
- Dice (one die per pair of students)
- One sheet of chart paper titled “Rolls to Empty the Bowl” and listing the numbers 2 – 12 down the left side.
- Activity:** Post the class chart paper with the heading “Rolls to Empty the Bowl” in a location where students can add to it.
- Divide the students into pairs. Each pair gets 1 die, 12 color tiles, a bowl, and a paper and pencil for recording.
- To play they will roll die, note the number that comes up, and take out that many color tiles. That player must take that number of word cards from the stack and lay them face down. While one person rolls to see how many times it takes to empty the bowl, the other person will record each of the other student’s rolls on a sheet of paper. They will continue with one rolling and the other recording until the bowl is empty. For example, one student rolls a 3, then a 4, then a 5. The other student writes $3 + 4 + 5 = 12$. Rolls to empty the bowl = 3.
- Explain that it is not necessary to go out exactly in this game. For example, if there are two tiles in the bowl, and a five is rolled, you may remove the tiles.
- Practice:** Have each pair play the game five times. After each game, have the pair record the number of rolls it took to empty the bowl. Next both students define their terms in their word wall journal. Have each partner take turns reading their definitions from their journals.
- As a class examine the chart to identify the most likely number of rolls it took to empty the bowl. Also identify the most and fewest rolls it took for anyone to empty the bowl. Were there any definitions they forgot? If so discuss cognitive strategies to help them remember the words.
- Extension:** Play the game using 20 tiles. Have the students use subtraction skills instead of addition by subtracting the numbers rolled on the dice from 12 tiles.
- Sources:** Tank, Bonnie: Math By All Means: Probability Grade 1 – 2 (A Marilyn Burns replacement unit, Math solutions Publications, New York, N.Y. , 1996
- Judy McCray, Ridgeway Elementary, Columbia MO
- Elting Mary and Wyler, Rose: Math Fun – Test Your Luck Simon and Schuster, New York, N.Y., 1992