

Can it Fit?

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Time Needed: 5-15 minutes

Arts Focus: Theatre
Math Focus: Volume

Age Range: 5-7

Mini-Lesson Description:

In this lesson, learners will “become” different objects or animals and try to fit in imagined spaces. This activity explores length, width, height, and volume.

Key Concepts: Improvisation; Imagination; Body Awareness; Expression; Length; Width; Height; Volume.

Materials Needed/Prep:

- A comfortable and safe space to move around in
- A few rectangular containers of different sizes (cardboard box, food container, etc.)
- Scrap paper
- Pencil, pen, or marker

Step-by-Step:

Explore and Describe

1. Volume is used describe the amount of space an object takes up. It describes how much an object can hold.
2. Compare the containers gathered. For each container, explore the volume (the space inside the container), length (the longest side of the container), width (the shortest side of the container), and height (from the top to the bottom of the container). Ask the learner:
 - What would fit inside? How do you know? What could never fit?
 - What words can we use to describe the size of this container? Long or short, wide or narrow, tall or short?

Can it Fit? Improv Activity

3. With your learner make 2 lists on your paper:
 - List 1: Spaces and/or containers of varying sizes from very small to very large (e.g., jelly jar, elevator)
 - List 2: Objects and/or animals from very tiny to very big (e.g., ant, elephant)
4. Choose one object and/or animal from the list and have the learner describe it: “How big is it?” “Where do you normally find it?”
5. Ask the learner to “become” the object and/or animal. Can they use their body and their voice?
6. Next, choose a container from the list and have the learner describe it: “What is it’s volume?” “How long, wide, or deep is it?”
7. Acting as that object and/or animal, act out trying to fit into that space or container. It might be very silly to try to fit an elephant into an elevator!
8. Ask the learner: “Can it fit?” “Is it too long?” “Is it too wide?” “Is it too short?” “Is there extra space inside (extra volume)?”
9. Continue with another object or animal and space or container. Mix it up, take turns, and have fun!

Variations and Next Steps:

- Students can listen to this song for fun: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLuJIXizBgY>
- Make real-life connections by reflecting: “Have you ever tried to put something big into a small space?” “Have you ever tried to put something tiny in a very large container?”

Standards

WA State Theatre Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Performance Standard (TH:Cr1.1.3) a. Create roles, imagine

Math Standard: (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.MD.A.1) Describe measurable attributes of objects, such as length or weight. Describe several measurable attributes of a single object.

Watch a video of this Creative Start Mini-Lesson and find more at: <https://www.arts.wa.gov/creative-start-studio/>