

Globe Toss Activity



Materials:

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

Procedures:

1. Have the students form a circle, leaving a little space between each person.
2. Instruct the students that you will toss them the beach ball and that they are to catch it with both hands. It is important that they not move their hands once they have caught the ball.
3. Ask the student what surface on the globe is under their right thumb, land or water? Use a chart to tally the results as you toss the globe. You can label two side of a vertical line, **land** | **water**
4. After tossing the globe to each student or 10 times, or when you have achieved the results you wanted, ask the students to add up each side. Compare the results, then divide each side by the total number of tosses to find the percentage of land and water. Students will find (unless you have a very unusual sample) that about 70% of the tosses result in a water location. Ask students why the activity resulted in this proportion. Have students look at the globe and visually compare the areas of the earth's surface covered by land versus water.
5. For more advanced students, include some of the following questions: Is the location of your thumb:
 - 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).