

THE TEACHER TIMES

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FOR THE CLASSROOM

Fun Review Games

Jeopardy Review

Based on the popular television show, this game is a good way to review terms and definitions for all subject areas.

Make a game board on an overhead transparency with six columns and five rows with each column filled in \$100 increments. Prepare the game questions on a separate sheet of paper by making six categories with each category containing five questions in ascending order of difficulty. Divide the class into three teams and begin play with team one going first, team two second and team three third.

Each team is given an opportunity to select a question from the board and attempt to answer it. If they answer correctly, they receive the dollar value for the question, and the game continues on to team two. If a team answers incorrectly, then one of the other teams can attempt to answer the question by "buzzing in" with a raised hand.



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A correct answer is awarded the monetary amount and the game proceeds to the next team in line. The game is complete when all of the answers on the board have been uncovered.

Baseball Review

Materials: Four bases (use chairs or desks as bases)

Instructions: Set up the field by identifying home plate, first, second, and third bases. Divide students into two teams and flip a coin to see who will bat first. Each batter is asked a question. If the batter gives a correct answer they advance to first base. If the batter incorrectly answers the question then they are out and the next batter gets a chance to answer the same question. After three outs the other team is given a turn at bat. Variation: Allow students to choose to answer a question from the easy, medium or difficult level. Easy questions equal a single, medium a double and difficult a triple.

Special note: The "For the Classroom" and "BIC Feature Story" sections of the BIC Teacher Times were written by Mr. Wright, a teacher in South Carolina.

FEATURE STORY

The Importance of Review

As teachers, we all instill in our students the importance of reviewing the information we teach them during the day, but why exactly is review so important? Review gives students an opportunity to practice retrieving and presenting the information that they will need during an assessment. Every time information is retrieved from the brain it is relearned. Review also increases the number of associations connected to the information and this improves the chances that the student will successfully retrieve the information at test time. For example, a recent study showed that after seven days the amount of information remembered by participants who did not review was 33 percent, while the amount of information remembered by those who did review was 83 percent.

Here are some methods for your students to try when they review outside of class.

Write it: Rewriting the information in one's own words enhances focus on the information and helps to create personal meaning. The physical act of writing helps the student focus on the information and by putting it in their own words they create their own personal "learning hooks".

Draw it: Drawing a picture, cartoon, graph or other visual representation of the information helps the learner "see" the information and make visual connections.

Talk it out: Reading the information out loud allows the learner's brain to hear and reprocess the information a second time. Reciting the information from memory will help the learner identify which pieces of information they need to restudy.

Teach it: Explaining learned information to another person and answering their questions enhances recall and comprehension of the information.

Sleep on it: Research increasingly supports the theory that while we sleep the brain processes, sorts, and stores information learned during the day. Lack of sleep and cramming before a test may cause one to miss out on this essential function of the brain.

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Teacher's White Board

Q & A

Q: Does BIC have any helpful study tips I can share with my students?

A: Visit our marker website at www.bicmarkit.com for helpful study tips and tricks for students. Here is some helpful information from that site.

Have students write memory and mastery cards to absorb the information they learn in the classroom. Memory and mastery cards are just a home-made version of flash cards. Use different color Permanent Markers to help you create the cards. Write the question in black, and the answer in red.

In addition, color-coding notes is a great way to make reading notes easier. You can use color-coding to distinguish different types of information and to help organize your notes.

- **Identification of Information:** Use color-coding to distinguish major topics of information. For example, in physics or chemistry, major laws (e.g. Coulomb's Law) could be written in one color and examples in another. The objective is to differentiate the material in the notes when it comes time to review or study them.



- **Stick to a system:** Once you have established your system for color-coding, stick to it.
- **Highlighting:** Use a highlighter to distinguish ultra-important information within the notes. Sometimes you just have a feeling of what's going to be on a test.

Also have your students try some of these memory tips:

- **Drink water:** Your brain is almost 75 percent water. It needs to be hydrated in order to perform well.
- **No junk food:** Fat needs more blood to be absorbed by the body than protein or carbohydrates. Don't divert that blood from the brain.
- **Turn the TV off at homework time:** TV will disrupt long term recall.
- **Teach:** Teaching material to someone else will improve your own comprehension, even if you think you know it.
- **Seven:** The memory span is roughly seven. Divide things in groups of seven to improve memorization.
- **Acronyms:** Oldest study trick in the book. Take the first letter of the words you have to memorize to spell a new word. For example, the names of the five great lakes: HOMES — Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior.

Look for these and other great study tips at www.bicmarkit.com.

The Teacher's White Board section is the area of the BIC Teacher Times dedicated just to you and your opinions. This is your chance to tell us what you think about BIC® products, ask BIC questions, or share some advice with other teachers. All submissions become the property of BIC and we may publish your entry. Remember to include your name, grade you teach, school and state.

Send your comments and feedback to: Teachers@bicworld.com