



Baseball Team / City Match

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BENEFITS: Practice reading and matching skills, Stimulate memories and reminiscence, Encourage social interaction

MATERIALS

- One tray
- 2"x 6" labels reading CITY and one reacting TEAM
- 3" x 8.5" cards for each National and American baseball team's name
- 3" x 8.5" cards for each hometown of the baseball teams



NOTE: Remember that some of the participants may not know recent teams' homes but remember the teams of their youth. For instance, you may want to make the hometown of the Dodgers Brooklyn instead of Los Angeles since they moved in 1957. Also, we do not recommend that you include newer teams, such as the Arizona Diamondbacks.



NOTE: If hand printing your labels and cards, use a dark, heavy marker. If using a computer, choose a large (40-48 point), bold typeface and a sans serif font, such as Helvetica or Arial.

SET UP

1. Sort the teams' city cards and the teams' name cards into matched piles of four.
2. Position the tray in front of the participant.
3. Place the CITY label at the top of the left-hand side of the tray.
4. Put the TEAM label at the top of the right-hand side of the tray.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Ask the participant to read the CITY and TEAM labels.
2. Tell the participant, "I need your help to match baseball teams to their hometowns."
3. Choose one pile of the city cards and its matching pile of team cards.
4. Lay the four city cards in a vertical line underneath the CITY label.
5. Ask the participant to read the cities aloud.
6. Present one of the matching team cards and ask the participant to read it aloud.
7. Ask the participant to match the team name to its city.
8. Demonstrate by placing the team card next to its city card.
9. Hand another team card to the participant. Ask the participant to match it.
10. Continue until all four teams and cities are matched.
11. Ask the participant to return all of the cards to you, but keep the CITY and TEAM labels exposed.
12. Repeat steps 6-11 with the remainder of the matching sets of cards .

EXTENSIONS

- Create team-matching games for football, hockey, basketball, etc.
- Match famous players to teams.

HORIZONTAL PROGRAMMING

- Create other matching games using different concepts, such as, State/Capital city matching, Famous Couples matching, Country/Food matching, Country/Flag matching, etc.
- Create a sorting game with positions from different sports. For instance, make a label that reads "FOOTBALL" and one that reads "BASEBALL." Ask the participants to sort position labels, such as LINEBACKER, TIGHT END, QUARTERBACK, DEFENSIVE TACKLE, CATCHER, PITCHER, SHORT STOP, and FIRST BASEMAN.

VERTICAL PROGRAMMING

DOWNWARD EXTENSION

- Pick a few baseball teams and make labels that have both the city and team name on each label. Then, make labels for an equal number of football teams that have both the teams' cities and names on each label. Create labels that say BASEBALL and FOOTBALL. Ask the participant to categorize the teams by sport.
- Also, you can cut out pictures from sporting magazines with scenes from baseball and football games and ask the participant to categorize these pictures.
- Have the participant match a team to its logo. (Logos change, so you may need to find logos used by teams in the past.)

UPWARD EXTENSION

- Have the participant match teams' names to the venues (stadiums, fields, arenas, etc.) at which they play.
- Display a map of the United States and ask the participant to point to the cities where the teams play.
- Ask the participant about games they saw or heard on the radio.
- Ask about their favorite teams and players.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

P: The participant tires or becomes overwhelmed from all of the matches.

S: Present fewer labels for matching or stop when the participant says they don't wish to continue.

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