

How Big Can a Note Knack get?

How can we familiarize our younger students with notation? Our large Note Knacks Cushions will help your students clearly see the difference between long and short while having a blast! This lesson **only takes a short time** and has kids practicing their observation skills...**why not add a little science to music class?**

Objectives:

1. Students will understand the difference between long and short
2. Students will practice their measuring skills

Materials:

- 1 set of Note Knacks Cushions
- A whiteboard and appropriate markers
- Several different small items that kids can use to measure length

Methods:

1. Show your students the Note Knacks Cushion Set
2. Ask your students what they notice?
 - a. Are all of the cushions the same? Are they all different? Are some of them the same?
 - b. What colors are they?
 - c. What do you see written on them? What do you suppose those notes mean? And what are these on the back (notes)?
(At this point, you are just asking the kids to observe and notice. They will soon find out that notation means length of sound. You don't need to point this out now. The important thing is that they are learning to think about what they see.)
3. "Let's see how long they actually are. How do you suppose we can measure them? Any ideas?" (By this point they may or may not know how to measure. Show them by giving them an example. How many mallets end to end does it take to measure a red Note Knack cushion? How about a yellow Note Knack? Etc...)
4. Now ask your kids to look around the classroom and see what they can find to measure each Note Knack. Make a comparison on the board. List each cushion type and how many of each measuring item it takes to complete the whole length of that cushion.

	Mallets	Kids Sitting	Kids Head to Toe	Add as many items as you like
Gray				
Blue				
Red				
Yellow				
Terra Cotta				

5. If a student doesn't mention it, ask how many children it would take to measure each cushion. Start with how many children can sit on each cushion.

6. Now ask children how they can make their bodies long. (You want them to lie on the rug with their arms above them stretched out.) Now ask them to put their arms by their side and see if they can figure out how many children can fit beside a Note Knacks cushion when they are lying head to toe, head to toe. Write down the results.
7. Ask your students to compare the numbers.
 - a. Which Note Knacks Cushion is the longest?
 - b. Which is the shortest?
 - c. Can we place each Note Knacks Cushion type in order from the longest to the shortest?
8. Ask your students what they notice about the items. (The shorter the item, the more of them it takes to measure a Note Knack Cushion.)

Assessment:

- Does each student know what the definition of long and short mean?
- Does each student know how to measure?