

Family Geography Night Activity

Globe Roll or Globe Toss

Materials Needed: Large or small blow up globe (inflated)

Faculty/Parents Needed: 1

Objectives:

To understand that water constitutes approximately 70% of the Earth's surface

To practice graphing information and calculating percentages

Family Night Directions for:

1. Distribute an inflated small globe to each family member or have all of the participants form a circle around a large blown up globe.
2. Reinforce the concept that on a globe blue is water and green/brown/other colors are land. Also decide which finger will be used for "marking the spot." (Hint: a good choice is the thumb on the right or left hand, and for small children, put a band aid on the thumb.)
3. Have the family group pick one person to record (tally) each toss. Did the thumb touch water or land?
4. Have the family throw the globe for 100 times. Record the results (water or land) for each toss.
5. For the large globe, have the participants roll it to each other. The leader can record: water or land.
6. If you toss/roll 100 times, the math becomes very easy to make into percentages. A more challenging aspect would be to have a time limit (5 minutes) and then have the family groups figure out the percentages.
7. Compare the results. Believe it or not, the activity will mirror the expected the percentages of 70% the time the thumb landed on water and 30% on land. Of course the more tosses the closer to this figure will result.