



EduTrend Contents

P4C · REALITY AND IMAGINATION · PRIMARY

Real or Pretend?

Sorting real and pretend things starts an enquiry into reality

Ages 5–7

Level: Foundation

30 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 01

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 01 · AT A GLANCE

Real or Pretend?

Children look at a set of things: a toy dragon, a picture of a real lion, a shadow, a bubble, a drawing of a fairy and a mirror reflection. They sort them into real, pretend and not sure. The “not sure” pile starts a discussion. Children create questions and vote on one, such as “What makes something real?”

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- sort things into real and pretend;
- ask a question about reality;
- give a reason;
- take turns to speak.

KEY WORDS

real · pretend · imagine · toy · dream · shadow

CURRICULUM LINKS

English: fiction and non-fiction.
Science: materials and light. Art: imaginative drawing.

1

STIMULUS

Share something to think about

2

THINK

Quiet thinking time

3

QUESTION

Create and choose a question

4

ENQUIRE

Reason together

5

BUILD

Agree, disagree, add

6

REFLECT

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Toy dragon and other objects
- Real and pretend picture cards
- Bubble mixture
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 01 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–5 min Stimulus	Sort the real and pretend objects and pictures.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
5–12 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
12–26 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"What makes something real?"</i>
26–30 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Say one thing that is real and how you know.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Questions about what is real belong to the part of philosophy called metaphysics.

The “not sure” pile shows children that the line between real and pretend can be hard to draw.

Common ideas to listen for

- “If you can’t touch it, it isn’t real.” Shadows and feelings are real.
- “A toy dragon is a real dragon.” It is a real toy.
- “Pretend things are bad.” Imagination is valuable.

Adapting the activity

Support

Sort four items.

Stretch

Ask: is a story real?

WORKSHEET 1

Real or pretend?

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Draw and sort.

Real or pretend?

Real	Pretend	Not sure

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

**Is a bubble real if it pops? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think...
because...**

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Sorts ideas	Gives a reason	Takes turns

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Real or Pretend? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Reality and Imagination programme (primary, level: foundation). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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