

Centipede

Focus Cardinal numbers; concentration

Level



Duration 20 minutes

Materials None

Rationale *A group process:* The cardinal numerals are taught or revised in an appealing, playful way. Everyone is necessarily involved.

Preparation

Decide where you are going to do this activity. You will need enough space for the centipede to move along. In the classroom, this may be a long, wavy line around the desks.

Procedure

- 1 Draw a simplified version of a centipede on the board. Tell your pupils that this animal is a great walker with all its feet. It walks miles and miles. Then ask:
How many feet does a centipede have?
- 2 Immediately start counting in chorus:
One, two, three, four, etc.
Decide where to stop – in initial stages, probably at 20.
- 3 Then teach the following chant:
*One mile on foot, keep going, keep going
One mile on foot, keep going till you stop*
- 4 Now ask the pupils to stand in a long line. Everyone starts walking and chanting the chant together.
- 5 At the end, everyone stops, says the next numeral, and says, *One, two, three*, when the pupils say *miles on foot, keep going, etc.* The line of children starts walking again.
- 6 When this verse comes to an end, everyone stands still again and says *three* (then starting moving again) *One mile on foot, keep going, etc.*
- 7 Then count to four, etc.

8 In other words, when they are counting, everybody starts still and when they are saying the rest of the verse everybody walks to the rhythm of the words.

9 The pupils move like a centipede through the classroom. The first pupil is the head of the centipede. The last pupil leads the way. The last pupil is the tail.

Extension

After some lessons the pupils will be able to count as far as 100.

Pupils can write the verse in their notebooks in the shape of a centipede.