



A SPECTacular Trip to the Zoo (🧠 A Brain Health Story)
(2nd Grade 7 – 8 yrs.)
Game: Brain Teasers



STORY CONNECTION – SLIDES 18-21 (Approx Time: 15-20 mins)

Our last stop is ... the Thinking Jungle. Thinking is the way that our brains help us come up with ideas and learn new things. The thinking part of our brain is called the **cognitive** part and when we are thinking and learning that is good for our Cognitive Health. Whenever we learn to do something new like riding a bike or learning how to tie your shoes you are thinking. When you are at school, doing puzzles, or reading you are thinking. The Thinking Jungle is one of the most important parts of the Brain Zoo. Without the Thinking Jungle, we would have a lot of trouble solving problems, remembering things, and learning about our environment. Thinking about the world around us will help us all have healthy brains and good Cognitive Health.

Materials needed:

- Brain Teasers (included below)
- Paper cut into strips or notecard sized pieces
- Pencils

Preparation needed:

- Determine student grouping. If you are working with an individual student the facilitator will also play.
- Determine how long to play

Instructions:

1. This activity focuses on the C in SPECTacular which stands for Cognitive Health. Student(s) can work alone or in small groups to try to solve a variety of brain teaser puzzles and earn points.
2. Ask the student(s) what 'brain teasers' are and discuss student(s)' ideas.
They are puzzles or riddles that make us think and are usually solved for fun.
3. Explain that you will read and/or project a brain teaser and give them a specific amount of time to work with their team to produce an answer. They will write the answer on one of the strips of paper.
4. When time is up, one person from each group stands up and reads the group's response. If the response is correct, the team earns a point. Allow all teams to share and then bring their papers to you for final review before the point is awarded.
5. Ask student(s) if they have any questions or need any clarification. Clear up any misunderstandings.
6. Divide the student(s) into small groups of 2-4.
7. You can play until all the brain teasers have been read or until a team earns a specific number of points.
8. In closing, remind student(s) that when they are at school, doing puzzles, or reading they are thinking. Without the Thinking Jungle, we would have a lot of trouble solving problems, remembering things, and learning about our environment. Thinking about the world around us will help us all have healthy brains and good Cognitive Health.

Round 1 Easy

Round 2 More Challenging

<p>1. Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?</p>	<p>1. A man stands on one side of a river, his dog on the other. The man calls his dog, who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a bridge or a boat. How did the dog do it?</p>
<p>2. A clerk at a butcher shop stands five feet ten inches tall and wears size 13 sneakers. What does he weigh?</p>	<p>2. A sundial has the fewest moving parts of any timepiece. Which has the most?</p>
<p>3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?</p>	<p>3. What is unusual about the following words: revive, banana, grammar, voodoo, assess, potato, dresser, uneven?</p>
<p>4. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?</p>	<p>4. What makes this number unique -- 8,549,176,320?</p>
<p>5. What word in the English language is always spelled incorrectly?</p>	<p>5. Put a coin into an empty bottle and insert a cork into the neck. How can you remove the coin without removing the cork or breaking the bottle?</p>
<p>6. Billie was born on December 28th, yet her birthday always falls in the summer. How is this possible?</p>	<p>6. Two boxers are in a match scheduled for 12 rounds. (Pure boxing only - no kicking, UFC takedowns, or anything else). One of the boxers gets knocked out after only six rounds, yet no man throws a punch. How is this possible?</p>
<p>7. In British Columbia you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?</p>	<p>7. In 1990, a person is 15 years old. In 1995, that same person is 10 years old. How can this be?</p>
<p>8. If you were running a race and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?</p>	<p>8. A man takes his car to a hotel. Upon reaching the hotel, he is immediately declared bankrupt. Why?</p>
<p>9. Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg is white" or "The yolk of the egg are white?"</p>	<p>9. What do these words have in common: polish, job, herb?</p>
<p>10. A farmer has five haystacks in one field and four haystacks in another. How many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in one field?</p>	<p>10. You're standing in a hallway with three light switches on the wall, each of which turns on a different lamp inside a closed room. You can't see inside the room, and you can't open the door except to enter the room. You can enter the room only once, and when you do, all the lamps must be turned off. How can you tell which switch turns on which lamp?</p>

Round 1 Answers:

1. Johnny.
2. Meat.
3. Mt. Everest. It just wasn't discovered yet.
4. There is no dirt in a hole.
5. Incorrectly (except when it is spelled incorrecktly).
6. Billie lives in the southern hemisphere.
7. You can't take a picture with a wooden leg. You need a camera (or iPad or cell phone) to take a picture.
8. You would be in 2nd place. You passed the person in second place, not first.
9. Neither. Egg yolks are yellow.
10. One. If he combines all his haystacks, they all become one big stack.

Round 2 Answers:

1. The river was frozen.
2. An hourglass, with thousands of grains of sand.
3. Take the first letter of each word and place it at the end. It will spell the same word backwards.
4. It contains each number, zero through nine, in alphabetical order.
5. Push the cork down into the bottle. Then shake the coin out.
6. Both boxers are female.
7. The person was born in 2005 B.C.
8. The man is playing Monopoly. He lands on a property with a hotel and doesn't have enough money to pay the rent.
9. All three words are pronounced differently when the first letter is capitalized.
10. Turn on the right switch and leave it on for two minutes. After two minutes, turn on the middle switch and leave it on for one minute. When that minute is up, turn off both switches and enter the room. One light bulb will be hot (1st switch), and one will be warm (2nd switch). The cold bulb will correspond to the switch you didn't turn on.

Brain Teasers Credit: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/work-in-progress/2012/05/15/10-braintasers-to-test-your-mental-sharpness/?sh=28c70460336d>

Brain Teasers Credit: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/work-in-progress/2012/11/06/10-braintasers-to-stretch-your-brain/?sh=42cff1841ded>