

Activities with Paper

Using Fortune Tellers for Education

K-5

All Subjects

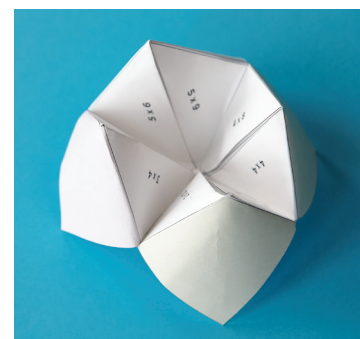
One Lesson





We all remember fortune tellers, the fun childhood game, but did you know that they are also fantastic tools for learning?

Fortune tellers are ideal for developing memory-based skills, such as multiplication tables, recognizing antonyms or pronouncing diphthongs. The fun of the fortune teller distracts children from the tedium associated with memorization tasks. Moreover, the kinesthetic aspect of fortune tellers appeals to learners who like to move—and isn't that all of us?



To facilitate your using fortune tellers in the classroom, we are providing a fortune teller designed to test multiplication tables. Use this with your elementary class or adapt it for subtraction/addition problems. We have also provided you with a blank fortune teller template that you can customize by writing your own questions and answers.

Creating your own fortune teller

While you can customize these by adding text boxes to the template and filling them in, you may find it just as easy to write directly on the paper. Do pay attention to the directionality of the writing. The numbers on the template indicate to you the directionality you should be using in each section.

You can also teach your students how to make their own fortune tellers and encourage them to tailor them to academic subjects or just topics that interest them.

The best part?

All you need to make a great fortune teller is a piece of paper, a ruler, a pencil and your imagination.

Need ideas on how to bring fortune tellers into the classroom?

Here is a fun list of topics and skills you can use them with:

Subject Area	Sample Hint	Sample Answer
Science: How a plant grows	How a plant makes food	photosynthesis
Math: Multiplication tables and sums	10×3	30
English: Vocabulary practice; antonyms and synonyms	Antonym for "new"	old
Spanish: Translation practice	"daughter" in Spanish	hija
Social Studies: Historical facts	Our first president	George Washington



Prep Before Class:

1. Take the fortune teller template. Do not write on the shaded areas.
2. Use the Math fortune teller example to guide you as you create your own.
3. Create a fortune teller that practices skills and knowledge that you have covered in class.
4. Check that your fortune teller, when folded, works properly. Does the directionality of the text match the directionality of the text on the Math fortune teller?
5. When you are happy with your fortune teller, make as many copies as you have students on 8.5" x 11" sheets of paper. Make sure that the opposite side of your fortune tellers is blank.

During Class:

1. In class, give each student their own copy of your fortune teller.
2. Provide the Student Directions (on next page) to each child. You may wish to also display these on a SmartBoard or via an ELMO.
3. Explain to your students that today you will be making a fortune teller.
4. Model each step in the process. After each step, pause to ensure that all of your students have completed the step correctly before moving on to the next one.
5. When all of the steps have been completed, ask two volunteers to come to the front of the classroom and play fortune teller with each other.
6. After these students have modeled the game, have students play this game in pairs.
7. Bring the lesson to a close, and ask students to take their fortune teller home and practice their math skills. Tell them there will be a quiz on the math problems the next day.

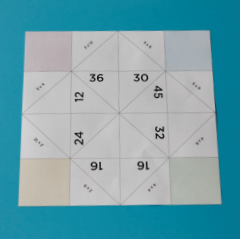


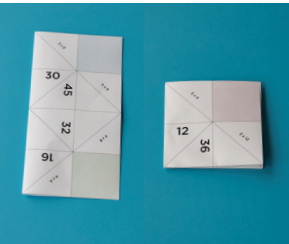
After Class

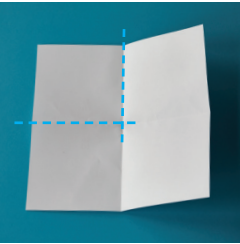
8. Prepare a quiz on the math problems featured in the fortune teller.
9. Prepare copies of the blank fortune teller template so that every student has two copies. Also prepare copies of the Math fortune teller template so that every student has one. This will ensure that students can follow the directionality of writing in the Math fortune teller as they create their own.
10. At the next class, hand out the blank fortune teller templates and the math fortune teller copies. For homework, ask students to create their own educational fortune tellers with questions related to a subject they have been learning in class. Encourage them to follow the directionality of writing in the math fortune teller.
11. At the following class, be sure to have students “show and tell” their fortune tellers in class.
12. Close the lesson with a reflection on what makes fortune tellers fun and lively ways to review skills and facts. Encourage students to continue making fortune tellers to enliven their practice and study time.
13. Once you get the hang of making fortune tellers, it will become easier and easier to make them quickly. You may wish to include them regularly in your classroom instruction. Their playfulness will appeal to your students and may create a safe space for your less confident students to practice their skills through trial and error.





Directions for Folding a Fortune Teller

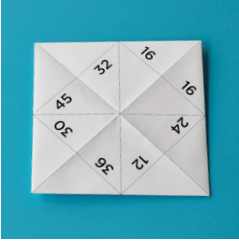
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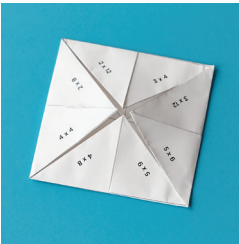
Cut out your fortune teller template along the outside lines so that it is a square. It should look like this.
2. 


Turn it over so that the designed side is face down. Now, fold the paper in half. Then fold it in half again. By folding it, the designed side will be facing you.
3. 

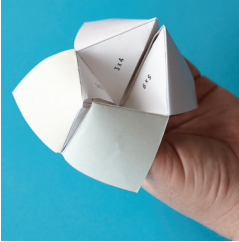
Unfold the paper. The blank side should be face up. Your folding should have made horizontal and vertical lines of indentation across the page.
4. 

Fold each corner so that it meets the vertical line indentation.
5. 

When each corner has been folded, it should look like this.
6. 

Flip the fortune teller over.
7. 

Fold each corner back to meet in the center. When you have folded each corner to meet the center, it should look like this.
8. 

Now, fold the square in half so that the shaded side is folded inward.
9. 

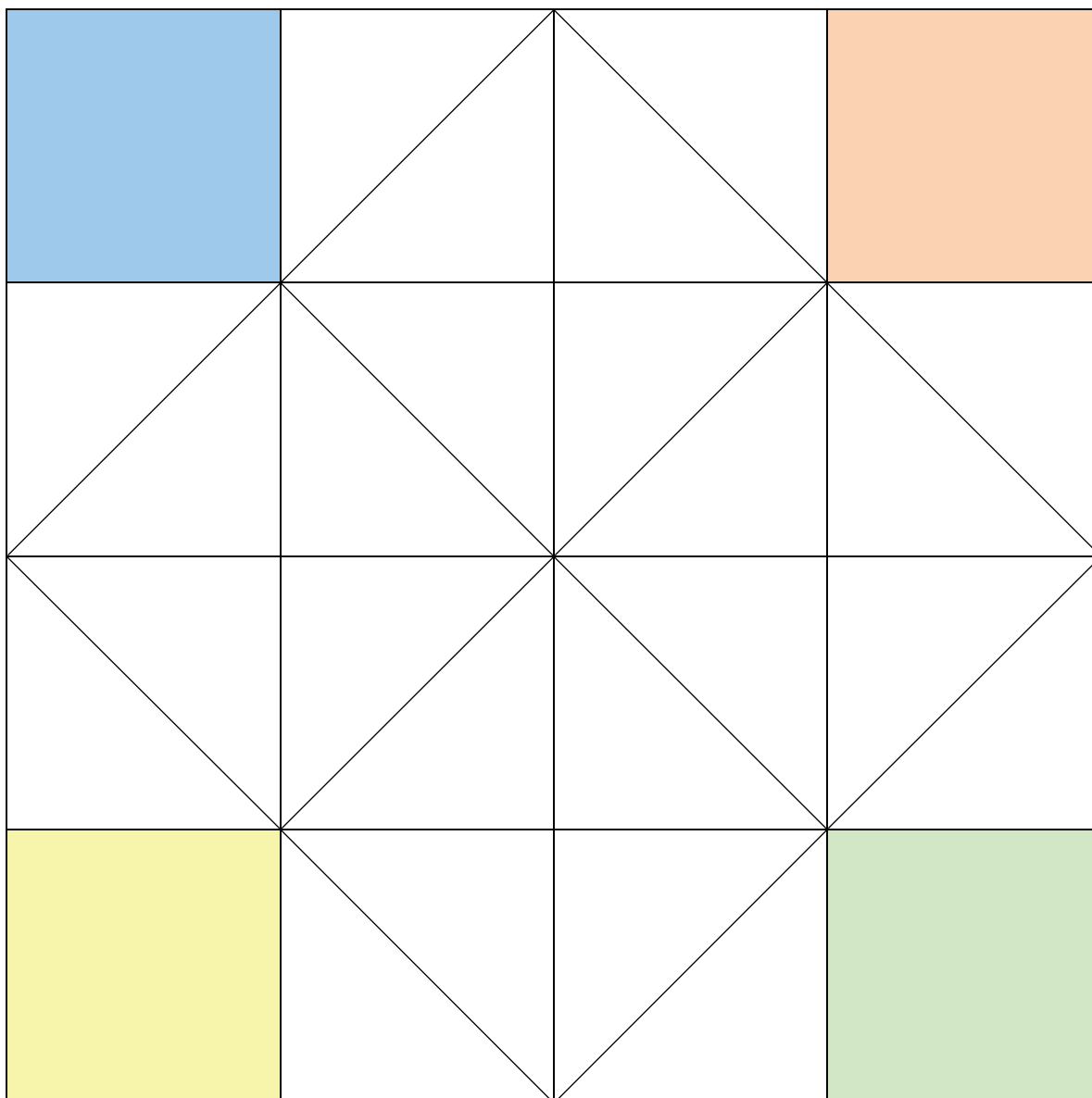
Slip your pointy finger and thumb into each of the corner flaps. Open and close in both directions. Congratulations! You've just made a fortune teller!



Blank Fortune Teller Template

Now it's your turn! Make your own educational fortune teller. Use the Math Fortune Teller Template on the next page as a guide for where to write questions and answers.

Encourage your students to make their own fortune tellers to practice a skill they are learning in class.





Math Fortune Teller Template

