

The great egg debate

Key Stage 2 | Language and Literacy



The Northern Ireland Curriculum

Talking and Listening

Pupils should be enabled to:

- participate in group and class discussions for a variety of curricular purposes; for example, *give and ask for reasons when trying to reach a conclusion in a group activity*;
- *share, respond to and evaluate ideas, arguments and points of view and use evidence or reason to justify opinions, actions or proposals*;

Writing

Pupils should be enabled to explore:

- express thoughts, feelings and opinions in imaginative and factual writing;

Success criteria

- I can say what I think.
- I can give a reason using because.
- I can listen when others are speaking.

Key vocabulary

Opinion, think, like, best, agree, disagree, because, reason, share, special, rare

Resources needed

- Lesson presentation
- Egg pictures

Prior learning

Children should already be able to express their ideas and have some understanding of simple conjunctions such as 'and', 'because' and 'so'. It would also be useful if children can give a simple reason for their opinion.

Time	Teaching activity	Teacher notes
10 mins	Display the images of eggs using the Lesson Presentation . Ask the children 'Which egg do you like the best?'. Children can discuss their answers with a partner. You could then see which egg is the most favoured amongst the class by doing a hands-up vote.	<i>For children that may find this activity difficult, provide them with a sentence starter e.g. 'I like the ___ egg because___.' You could also accept a shorter, one-word answer from children and model the complete sentence back to them.</i>
15 mins	Introduce the lesson title 'The great egg debate' and explain what an opinion is. Show the children the model example sentence on the slide and explain that one part is the opinion and the other is the reason for your thinking. As a class, build another sentence together and ask the children to identify the opinion and the reason.	<i>You could provide visual scaffolds like a two-column chart labelled opinion/reason to help children visualise the different parts of the sentence.</i>

Time	Teaching activity	Teacher notes
10 mins	Group children into mixed-ability pairs or small groups and give each one egg picture. Explain to pupils that they are going to talk about whether they like the egg they have been given and why/why not. If possible, adults can prompt by questioning 'why do you think that?'. Children then record their ideas on The Great Egg Debate Preparation Sheets .	<i>The sheets are differentiated to support all learners.</i>
15 mins	Invite each group, or as many as you have time for, to share their opinion out loud to the rest of the class. Ask the class to respond with 'I agree' or 'I think differently' and encourage them to give a reason for why they think this. If children in the original group are confident enough, you could encourage them to give a rebuttal.	<i>Allow children to hold up their picture whilst speaking. Encourage quieter children to contribute non-verbally.</i>
10 mins	Ask the children to reflect on which egg they like the best now. Has their opinion changed from the beginning of the lesson after hearing everyone else's opinions?	<i>If the children's opinion has changed, ask them to clearly explain why they have switched from their original choice.</i>

Lesson reflections / next steps / teacher notes

Assessment opportunities

- During the paired or group discussion, listen for children that can clearly state their opinion.
- Listen for children using 'because' or other conjunctions to support their reasons.
- Observe children that can listen and respond appropriately during the debate.

Suggestions for future learning

- Children could write a short persuasive paragraph or letter explaining which egg they think is the best, supporting their opinions with clear reasons.
- You could link this lesson to a reading lesson on non-fiction texts about animals, food, or traditions involving eggs. Identifying in the text opinions and facts.

Home learning opportunities

- Children could design a new type of egg and label it with reasons why this is the best egg ever.
- Children could be encouraged to discuss the topic of 'which egg is best?' with their families at home.