

Learning[®]



Teachers' Evaluation Comments

17th Annual

Teachers' ChoiceSM Award 2011

Learning® Magazine
17th Annual
Teachers' ChoiceSM Award for the Classroom 2011

Below you will find the comments for your product. As you read the comments, please note that this is the literal text from the evaluation forms. We have not differentiated comments between the teachers on each team. Although we encourage teachers to provide comments, it is not a requirement. Therefore, you may notice if you had multiple entries, the responses may be more or less in depth depending on the team of teachers. We do not use comments in the scoring process. They are provided as insight into the panel's thoughts on your product.

We hope you find the responses helpful and continue to participate in the Teachers' Choice Awards in the future. Applications will be available in January 2011 for the 18th Annual Teachers' Choice Awards program.

Product 2082 School SCRABBLE Kit
Company National Scrabble Association

What aspects of this product did you like the most?

I loved the excitement I saw in my students when I pulled out these games! They were really trying to spell bigger words and even got excited about looking up words in the dictionary (one of our standards involves dictionary use). I loved that I had more than one board so that all of my students could play at once. I also liked that it kept their attention and I LOVED the fact that the spaces for the tiles on the board were grooved so the letters didn't slide all over the board. Thick board -indentions on the board makes the pieces easy o stay put -letter distribution can be seen by both players -pretty colors -large pieces -large letters -pouch to keep the letters in. It helps students to be involved in their vocabulary development. It encourages them to build their vocabulary and use words that they would not normally think about using. It is game-oriented and fun for all students at any level. The product is very easy to use. The directions are written very clearly and in detail for the students on the back of the Scrabble box. I also like that the game board has raised edges for each square, so the pieces do not slide out of place. The kit came with an updated Scrabble dictionary which is very helpful for the students when they first learn to play. I would have like to have one dictionary per game, so that all students could use it while playing. This game has a happy combination of strategy, vocabulary, and flexibility. This game was good for all students regardless of their ability.

How would this product need to improve to better support your curriculum?

The only improvement I would suggest is having more of the trays so more than 2 students can play together and also having the board on a turntable so it is easier to turn the board for the other player on the opposite side to see it. About the only recommendations that I can make for improving the product would be to have the playing board on a turntable so when the students turn the board from one player to the next, they don't run the risk of moving the tiles. But since the spaces for the letters are separated and grooved, there wasn't that much of a problem with that. I also didn't understand why there were only two trays (for two players) to play each game. I think there should be at least 4 so that 4 people can play each game. I had to pair up my students so that the whole classroom could play with 2 players sharing a tray and working together. There are only 2 trays -board isn't "spinnny" (my one at home is, and it makes a huge difference!) -only one dictionary for the entire class. Perhaps make it easier for everything to fit in the box easily after using it for the first time. The only thing that I would have really liked to have more of would be the student dictionaries. The game board set is really nice, sturdy, and easy to use. I do not see anything that needs improvement. I needed more dictionaries to fully utilize the game. The game allows students to learn in small groups in an interactive

manner but students got frustrated waiting to use a dictionary.

How did you make use of the product, or integrate it into your lesson plans?

We played Scrabble during recess when it was raining outside and we couldn't go out for recess. I explained HOW the board works because a lot of my students had never played it before! Then I let them get started and they LOVED it! I really liked when I heard them discussing "spelling rules" and found them ASKING to use dictionaries (something they usually HATE to do!).

We used these games a few times on Friday after our Spelling Quiz to allow students a chance to practice spelling skills. They really enjoyed playing and I let them refer to the dictionary if they had a question, but then they only got 1/2 of the points. It was a great review of dictionary skills as students looked up words to spell.

I used the boards during our connection time (30 minute period). I liked the fact that the students had the same game to play so there was no disagreement nor jealousy.

I used it as a Connections activity because it is a fun game that enhances vocabulary. A teacher of any subject could incorporate it into their curriculum by using words associated with his or her subject matter.

We used the Scrabble kits to work on enhancing our vocabulary skills, language skills, spelling skills, dictionary skills, and mathematical skills. That is why I really loved having these kits in my classroom. Students were playing a game and didn't realize that it was helping them in all of these academic areas. I would pair each student with a partner, and they would challenge another team to a Scrabble competition. We incorporated this into our classroom twice a month. The students really looked forward to it.

Scrabble is one of those games that's fun for all students but also rewards the more intense players. This game leaves the student with a larger vocabulary, better spelling, and a generally more agile mind. My AL students love competing with each other and I was surprised how many difficult words they knew. I used this game as an incentive for good behavior and completing assignments in a timely manner. The good thing about this game, they are learning new words without meaning to learn things. It is wonderful.

What skills did your students learn from this product?

They really practiced their spelling skills AND they got practice using dictionaries to find words. I also heard some of them discussing the difference between plural and singular spellings AND proper and common nouns!

They practiced their spelling skills, used Math adding skills to keep totals of their points, and also got practice with the class dictionaries which is a state mandated standard. It was a lot of fun for them and gave them something to look forward to on Fridays after the Spelling test. Some of the students even wanted to play with these during recess time! Vocabulary, spelling, thinking, and other game skills such as taking turn, respect, learning how to loose (and win).

They learned new vocabulary words and team work. It also helped their spelling skills as well.

The students were able to learn new vocabulary, improve on their recall of vocabulary, enhance their language skills, practice spelling in a fun way, practice dictionary skills, and incorporate their basic math skills. It is really great to be able to focus on all of these skills with just one game!

They all increased their vocabulary and spelling. I know this is sad, but several of the lower-level students learned how to more effectively use the dictionary. Many times my students would rather misspell a word than take the time to look up the correct spelling. When they worked in a competitive game in a small group, they actually had fun racing to look up words.

If funds were available, would you recommend this product to a teacher at the appropriate grade / age level? Please explain why or why not.

Yes, I would recommend this product because the students really had a great time doing something EDUCATIONAL! It was easy for them to learn how to play and they were motivated to use their knowledge of spelling rules and dictionary skills! They love Scrabble now and many of them have gotten their parents to purchase games for at home play!

Yes, I would definitely recommend this product to other teachers. I think it would be great for other grades and I found that the students really had a good time SPELLING! They seemed to think that Scrabble was something new....imagine their surprise when I told them that I had played this game when I was THEIR AGE! The classroom set is very sturdy product and provides enough boards for the whole class to play at once. Yes, it is worth the money!

Yes! My family loves Scrabble, but I had never really thought about how it could impact my class. Not only did they learn new word rules, they had fun practicing spelling and what they already know. Plus, they got some good dictionary usage! Loved it!

Yes, I would love to have this in my classroom. It is an educational and fun game to play for all level students.

Absolutely! This is a game that has been around forever, but a lot of kids today have not had the opportunity to really learn how to play and learn the benefits. I think it is appropriate for grades 4 and up. The lower grades might have an easier time playing if someone were to assist them in the beginning. They could also be provided with word lists to get them started with the process. I think Scrabble is a game for everyone!

Oh Yeah! I know that the game set would be expensive but if several teachers used the product, there could be an opportunity to set up a Scrabble competition in the school. After students learned how to play or wanted to be competitive, the school could start a Scrabble club. The possibilities are endless!