

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Big Tasks for Little Brains: 1st Grade Memory Challenge

Moving beyond simple naming to explore how sensory patterns and mental organization help students solve real-world problems.

1. Leo is trying to remember his locker code: 2-4-6. He says the numbers over and over in his head. What is Leo doing with his brain?

Answer: B) Using memory rehearsal

Repeating information out loud or in your head helps keep it in your short-term memory so you don't forget it.

2. Sarah sees clouds getting dark and hears thunder. She thinks, 'It's going to rain soon!' Sarah is using her ____ to solve a mystery.

Answer: C) Inference skills

Inference is when you use clues you see right now plus things you already know to figure something out.

3. True or False: Using a song to help you remember the days of the week is a way to help your brain store information.

Answer: A) True

Music and rhythm make it easier for our brains to encode and recall lists of information.

4. Maya has a pile of blocks. She puts all the circles in one pile and all the squares in another. What cognitive skill is Maya using?

Answer: A) Categorization

Categorization is a thinking skill where we group things together because they are similar.

5. When you try to remember what you ate for breakfast yesterday, your brain is doing a ____ task.

Answer: B) Retrieval

Retrieval is the process of 'finding' or pulling a memory back into your mind from where it was stored.

6. True or False: Problem-solving means you give up as soon as a toy is hard to put together.

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Answer: B) False

Problem-solving involves thinking of different ways to fix a challenge until you find a solution.

7. Toby wants to remember to bring his library book. He puts it right next to his shoes. How does this help his memory?

Answer: C) The shoes act as a memory cue

A memory cue is a signal or reminder in our environment that helps us remember to do something.

8. To remember how to build a LEGO tower, you follow a list of pictures. This step-by-step way of working is called an ____.

Answer: B) Algorithm

An algorithm is a specific set of steps you follow to finish a job or solve a problem correctly.

9. True or False: Your brain uses sensory memory when you briefly see a bird fly past your window.

Answer: A) True

Sensory memory is the very quick way our brain takes in information from our sight, hearing, and touch.

10. If you are trying to solve a puzzle and one piece doesn't fit, you try a different one. This is called:

Answer: A) Trial and error

Trial and error is a strategy where you try different ways to solve a problem until you find the one that works.