

Step 1: 15 Minute Discussion

Return to the Soccer Ball Concept Cartoon Discussion

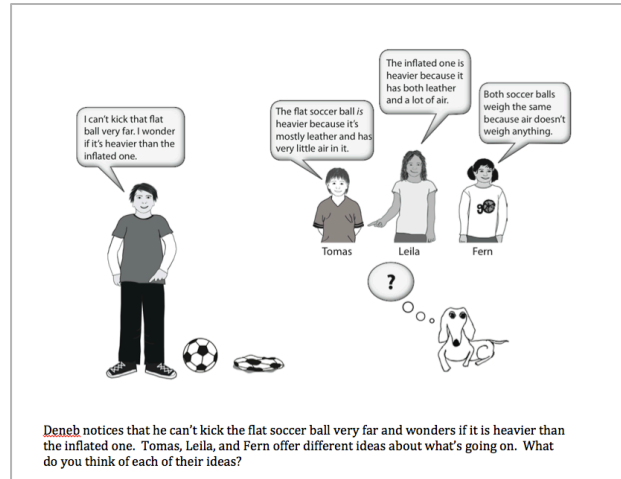
(Recording a class discussion after the 5th Grade Talk Science Program)

Time: 30 minutes with introduction and written reflection

You and your students began the pathway study with a 15-minute discussion about the Soccer Ball concept cartoon. Now, as you come to the end of the *Talk Science Pathway*, return to the cartoon and have the same 15-minute discussion.

Rationale: This is an opportunity to “take stock.” Comparing the second discussion to the first will help you answer the following questions:

- In what ways has the culture of science discussion changed in my classroom?
- In what ways have students’ scientific ideas grown?
- What strategies am I using now to support deeper discussion?
- What do I want to continue working on?



How to conduct and audio record the discussion:

Conduct the concept cartoon discussion as you did in Step 1. The full experience should take about 30 minutes—a few minutes to introduce the cartoon, 15 minutes for discussion, and 5-10 minutes for writing.

You’ll recall that in this cartoon, the characters consider which is heavier—an inflated or deflated soccer ball. Each has a conjecture and a reason for his or her belief. Darwin (the dog) is pondering each student’s idea.

Before the discussion:

1. Have an audio recorder on hand to use during the discussion.
2. Turn on the recorder to make sure it is working. If not, check the batteries, the most likely case of a problem. If necessary, switch to fresh batteries.
3. Make sure you have a copy of the cartoon for each student (Page 3 of this file.)
4. Have a copy of *Goals and Talk Moves Tool* and the *Reflection Tool* on hand.

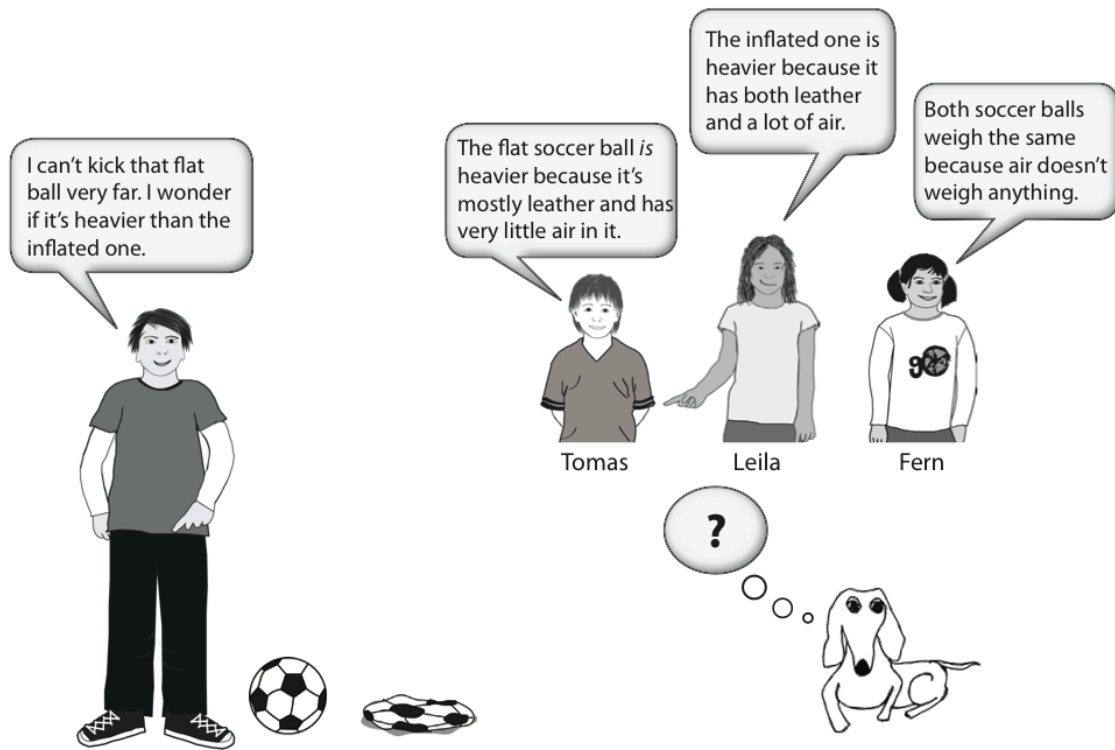
During the discussion:

1. Have students sit in a circle. (This configuration will result in better audio.)
2. Explain that they will be revisiting a discussion they had at the beginning of the science unit to see if their thinking has changed.
3. Give each student a copy of the cartoon.
4. Put the audio tape recorder in the center of the circle and press the RECORD button.

5. Important: At the beginning of the recording, state your class identifying information, for example: “This is Ms. _____’s fifth grade class recording on May 18, 2013 with 25 students discussing Which soccer ball weighs more?”
6. Present the dilemma that the characters face, and then ask the students to explain what they think of each character’s ideas. What might they say to each character about his or her ideas?
7. Engage and support students during the discussion.

Following the discussion:

1. When the discussion is finished, press **STOP** and turn off the recorder.
2. Ask students to write a brief reflection at the bottom of the cartoon saying what they thought before the discussion and what they think now and why. As the students write, reflect on the discussion yourself. Use the *Goals and Talk Moves Tool* and the *Reflection Tool* to guide your reflection.
3. Save the audiotape file, your reflection, and the student reflections for “Reflect and Document” coming next.



Deneb notices that he can't kick the flat soccer ball very far and wonders if it is heavier than the inflated one. Tomas, Leila, and Fern offer different ideas about what's going on. What do you think of each of their ideas?