

FUN FRIDAY: That Counts!

Source: [Tennessee Association for the Gifted – TAG](#), Facebook, September 4, 2026

Five categories. One answer. That's it.

Give students five categories that don't appear to have much in common. Their challenge is to come up with one answer that can fit all five.

For example:

Round 1

Something found in a kitchen
Associated with royalty
Could ruin a vacation
Found underground
Makes noise

Then let them go.

The important part? Don't create the categories with an answer already in mind. This isn't a guessing game. Students aren't trying to figure out what you were thinking. In fact, the best answers will probably be ones you never considered.

Once a team has an answer, they have to make their case.

How does it fit the first category? The second? The third? All five connections have to be defensible. And this is where the game gets fun.

After a team explains its answer, another team can challenge the connection they think is weakest.

“That doesn't count.”

Now the original team has 30 seconds to convince everyone that it does.

And don't make the standard so rigid that only literal connections count. Personal experience, factual knowledge, multiple meanings, cultural references, unusual examples, exceptions . . . if students can make a reasonable argument for the connection, let them make it.

Then decide: Does that count?

Here are four more rounds to keep you going:

Round 2

Something you could wear
Found at school
Could be dangerous
Associated with winter
Has a smell

Round 3

Something people collect
Could be expensive
Found in nature
Has a number associated with it
Could cause an argument

Round 4

Something that moves
Could be found at night
Someone might be afraid of it
Could save your life
Has been in a movie

Round 5

Something that can be broken
Could make someone famous
Has rules
Can change over time
Could make someone change their mind

And don't worry if you can't think of an answer that works for every round. You're not supposed to have the answer.

Give students categories that pull their thinking in different directions and see what they notice that you didn't. Maybe their first answer won't work. Maybe their fifth won't either. Eventually, someone is going to see a connection no one else saw.

And then they'll have to convince everyone else that it counts. Five categories. One answer. Your job is to convince us it counts.

Fun Friday, indeed!