

Hamster Habitat Engineers: Building the Great Cardboard Maze!

This lesson blends creativity, learning, and physical activity as we explore the world of hamsters and build an exciting maze!

Lesson Activities:

1. Hamster Facts Exploration (Science & English - 15 mins)

Activity: Let's learn about hamsters! Read a simple book about hamster care or look up facts together online. Discuss: What do hamsters eat? Where do they sleep? Why do they like to run and explore? What makes a good home for a hamster?

Talk & Write: Ask the student to name three important things a hamster needs to be happy and healthy. Help them write these down or dictate them to you.

2. Maze Architects (Math & Art - 30 mins)

Activity: Let's design our maze! First, sketch a simple maze design on paper. Think about paths, dead ends, and the start/finish. Now, let's use math! Decide how tall the maze walls should be. Use a ruler or measuring tape to measure the cardboard pieces you will need for the walls and floor sections (if using). Discuss units like inches or centimeters.

Build & Decorate: With adult supervision/help for cutting, carefully cut the cardboard pieces. Assemble the maze using strong tape, following the design. Once built, use non-toxic markers, crayons, or paint to decorate the maze walls. Make it colorful and fun for a hamster explorer!

3. The Hamster Hustle (Physical Education - 10 mins)

Activity: Time to move like a hamster! Before putting a real hamster in (if applicable and safe!), outline the maze path on the floor with tape or simply imagine the path. Can the student crawl through the maze path like a hamster? Try timing how fast they can navigate from start to finish!

4. Maze Adventure Story (English & Art - 15 mins)

Activity: Imagine a little hamster exploring the maze you just built! What adventures does it have? Does it find the way easily, or does it get stuck in a dead end? Write a short sentence or a mini-story (student can dictate if needed) about the hamster's journey. Draw a picture to go with the story.

5. Wrap-up & Review (5 mins)

Discussion: Look at the finished maze. Talk about what was learned: hamster needs (Science), measuring (Math), designing/decorating (Art), moving like a hamster (PE), and storytelling (English). Discuss how the maze provides enrichment and exercise for a hamster.