

IDEAS FOR USING ACTIVITY PACKETS

Following are some examples of ways in which different teachers have actually used the activities in this packet:

- Use scissors and glue stick to cut-and-paste the portions of the packet desired, then duplicate the modified packet for each student.
- Choose a few "core" activity sheet that are then duplicated for all students. Limited quantities of other sheets are run off, and students select a specified number of these as their choice to complete on an individualized basis.
- Use some activities as-is from the packet, and rewrite others to reflect your own priorities. All students have the same packet. Even in this limited packet, some items are designated as first priority items for all students to accomplish, and others are left to students' choices.
- Post all activity sheets and let students choose the ones they want to do. You review choices to ensure they are realistic and not trivial or overwhelming.
- Assign activity sheets on a lottery basis.
- Assign one mini-packet of four activities per group.
- Students work in groups of two. Each group picks six rides.
- Each student does one roller coaster, one vertical loop ride, one circular ride, and one free-fall ride.
- Students pick one ride from each of the three categories. They also pick a second choice for each category in case the ride is not operating or the lines are too long. They register their choices with you. Non-riders make measurement from pre-set "spots" and make other off-ride measurements.
- Students pick up an activity packet form a manned station or place in the park. They turn it in when completed and get the next one. They continue the process until the required activities are completed. If you do not want to be tied down manning the station, you might consider having parent volunteers do this.
- Pass out activity sheets in advance. Have students determine what data they actually need to gather at the park and note this on a minimal amount of paper. Reduce any resource materials which the students must actually have with them (time schedule, formulae, measurement instructions, etc.) to half-size on the copy machine (actually more like 75%) to get lots of information on a small amount of paper. Students can then leave the actual activity sheets at school, and take to the park only a few sheets of paper that they can fold and keep in their pockets. Data can be recopied when they return to class.

It may take a year or two to get a feel for how much material is appropriate for the time available, whether/when to collect packets and/or grade them, how much time to spend on discussion pre-and post-trip, whether to give a quiz or a test, etc.