



Pencil Puzzle - Teacher Notes

Miss Bloom is a wonderful teacher who expects students writing and drawing to be neat. At the beginning of each year she expects students to have new pencils and at the beginning of each week she asks students to sharpen their pencils.



This is how the new pencils look at the beginning of the year.

By the end of term 1 the pencils had changed.



Quick question 1: How had the pencils changed?

The pencils were all shorter.

They were not all the same size.

One had been chewed.

One had been splashed with liquid paper or white paint

Quick question 2: What do you think had caused these changes?

Weekly sharpening. Some students had sharpened them more than others (JW). Somebody had chewed one (JW). Somebody had spilled paint (GB)



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If we notice that changes are happening in a fairly regular way, we can predict (make a good guess) what will happen next.

Quick question 3: How do you think the pencils will look at the end of the year?

The pencils will be shorter and more battered/used.

More predictions please!

At the end of this year, will you be taller or smaller than you are now?

Taller

Tonight, will it be lighter or darker than it is now?

Darker

What season will follow Spring?

Summer

If it rains, will you get wet or dry?

Wet (if you are outside)

As you grow older, will your shoe size get bigger?

Yes, but only until you are an adult and then it stays the same

