

SPATIAL THINKING IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Unit	Student Activity or Discussion Question	Spatial-thinking concept(s)
1	Me (here), You (there), and It (over that way) Describe the location of the doll. Is it in front of me? behind the toy car? to my left? on your left side? on the left side of the car?	location frames of reference direction
2	Maps and Models Imagine this whole room is put in a shrinking machine. This box is this desk. Where should we put this marble to represent the globe? This doll to be you?	representation direction distance
3	Near and Far Is Alano closer to the desk than Zola or farther away? Is the globe closer to Alano or Zola? Would it be easier to throw this balloon to Alano or Zola?	proximity spatial aura (zone of influence)
4	Inside and Outside, Whole and Part Of Is the chair inside or outside the rug area of the room? What borough is Harlem inside? What state is Philadelphia inside?	spatial hierarchy (enclosure)
5	Toward and Away, Slope and Cliff, Journey Scroll Is the hill a steady uphill slope, or is it flat at first and then steep uphill? Describe changes you see in buildings as you walk from school to the park.	spatial transition (gradient)
6	Similar and Different Position See this book on my desk? Put your book in the same place on your desk. Bears live in this cold part of Canada. Can you touch a similar part of Asia?	spatial analogy
7	Together or Separate Is the teddy bear in the blue or red pail? Is the treasure under the tree? Do the pennies on the table occur together with the nickels or the dimes?	spatial association (correlation)
8	String, Ring, or Bunch Are the blocks arranged in a line, a ring, a bunch, or are they just scattered? How would you describe the pattern of towns in upstate New York?	spatial pattern
9	This Group or the Other One Place this yarn so that it divides the pennies from the nickels on the table. Draw a line around the picnic area on this photo to separate it from the forest.	region