

Hula-Hoop Floor Venn

KIDS HANDS-ON

RUN AT 10:40

25 MIN

The point

One thing can belong to two categories at once — it stands in the overlap. This is a real Venn diagram, big enough to stand in.

Materials

- 2 hula hoops (or rope/yarn laid as circles)
- ~15 objects, incl. planted “both” traps: red wooden block, red pencil, wooden spoon
- 3 label cards + chunky marker (one card lettered BOTH)

Steps

- 1 Lay the hoops **apart**. Label them: *things made of wood* / *things that are red*.
- 2 Kids place objects one at a time, **saying why** each belongs.
- 3 Produce the trap: the **red wooden block**. Let the argument happen — “it’s wood! it’s red! where can it live?”
- 4 When someone despairs, **slide the hoops together until they overlap**. Stand the block in the middle.
- 5 Letter the **BOTH** card and lay it in the overlap; kids hunt for more both-things.
- 6 **Swap one label** (e.g. red → kitchen things) and watch the middle empty or fill.
- 7 Name it: a **Venn diagram** — two circles that share a middle.

Say: “A thing can belong to TWO categories at the same time — it just stands in the middle. Grown-up scientists call this a VENN DIAGRAM, and you made one the size of the floor.”

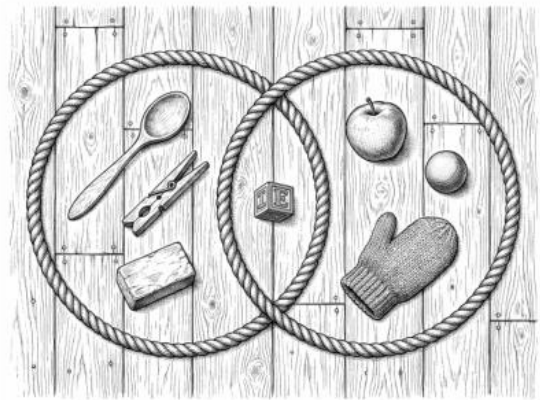


Fig. 1 — wooden things left, red things right — the block belongs to BOTH

TEACHER PREP

Stage hoops (or pre-cut rope circles) and **plant 3–4 genuine both-objects** in the bin — a dead overlap kills the lesson. Tape the crossing points down.

What to watch for

- The argument over the trap object — the overlap is **invented under pressure**
- Kids hunting for more both-things unprompted

EXPECTED RESULT

The overlap only exists where the circles cross; a thing in the middle belongs to **both categories at once** — and changing a label re-sorts the whole floor.