

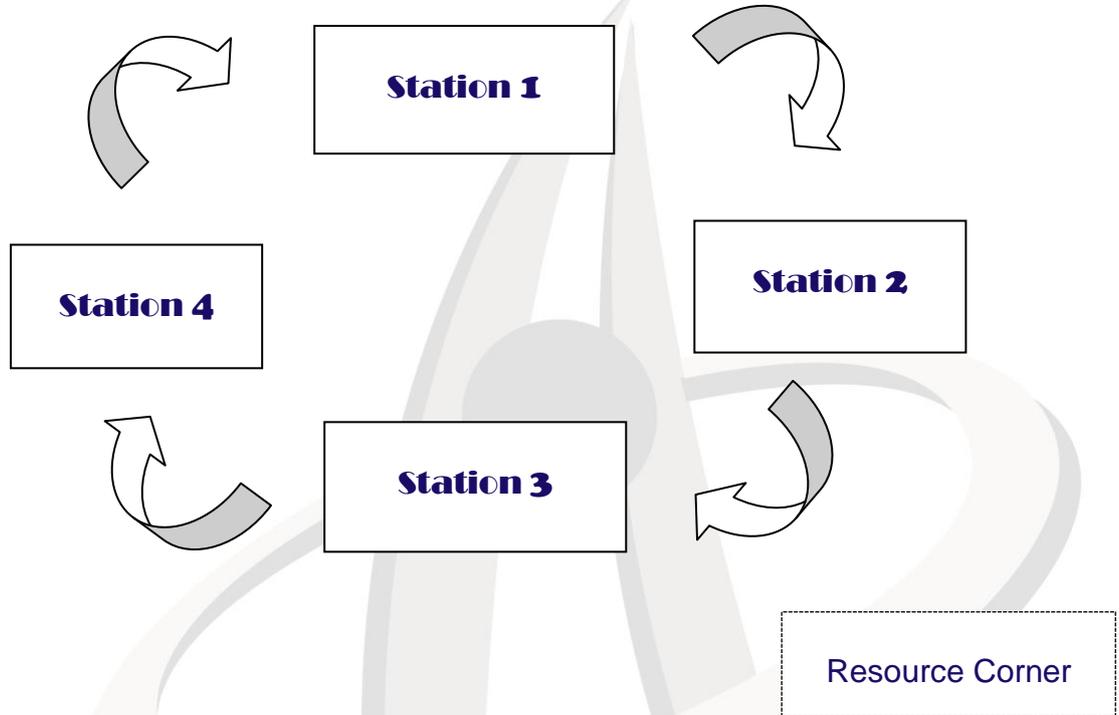
Station Approach

What is Station Approach?

- is an instruction strategy that allows small groups of students to be engaged in a series of learning tasks in different learning centres / stations. It helps teachers cater for students' diverse needs, interests, and learning styles. All students rotate through each station **OR** students only go to those stations that meet their specific learning needs;
- is a specific strategy to divide the class into groups while individual students can be taken care of properly;
- is effective particularly for complex concepts as well as concepts that need certain degree of inquiry from different angles / ways. Stations can cover a single topic or several independent topics.

How it works?

- Optimum number of station: 3-4
 - More stations can be arranged for diverse concepts or for bigger class size.
 - In a big class or that consists of a small number of stations, the teacher may duplicate 1-2 stations.
- Classroom management issues
 - Design stations so that only one requires the teacher's supervision / instruction.
 - Other stations should be self-contained or require only limited direct instructions. Guidelines should be posted clearly. A teaching assistant or parent volunteer may help.
 - Time spent in each station can vary from 10 minutes to a whole lesson.
 - Plan the traffic pattern carefully and signal how students will move from station to station.
 - An extra station could be established for extended tasks for students who have finished the task at a station quickly.
- Catering for different learning styles, interests, and / or levels of readiness
 - Each station should require students to examine the concept from a different perspective. This can be accomplished by considering each station as a particular learning style.
 - One station would be hands-on station where a mini lab is established. Another could be a visual station, where students would quietly read, complete computer research, or explore concepts visually. Another station could be an auditory station where students could have discussions or listening task.
e.g. *Guided exploratory area, Hands-on or Lab area, Quiet work area, Production area*
- Full use of available resources
 - Books, computers, and lab equipment, rug and etc. The teacher's desk can also be a station.
 - Be innovative: a playmat can be a station.



Reference

Jones, D.J. (2007). The station approach: How to teach with limited resources. *Science Scope*, February, pp.16-21.