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Jenna Price Carpenter* (jenna@latech.edu). *Enticing Your Students to be Sweet on Equivalence Relations: A Tactile Approach to De-Mystifying an "Abstract" Concept.*

The first time that students encounter the concept of an equivalence relation is often in a first proofs course. For many of these students, such a course is their first glimpse into the abstract underpinnings of mathematics. Many textbooks present equivalence relations, which we actually use in our everyday reasoning, from an abstract viewpoint. Providing students, or teams of students, with bags of assorted pieces of individually-wrapped candy at the outset of the discussion on equivalence relations can give them a tactile and visual way to test, verify and even discover concepts and theorems about equivalence relations on their own as you move through the material. This talk will take you through this approach to teaching equivalence relations and let you play along, as well. (Received July 29, 2012)