

Unit Lesson Plan: Classification

Day 1 Unit Lesson: Introduction to Classification

Objective: Students will learn why and how to classify organisms, Students will also understand the importance of the seven levels of classification.

Materials:

- Cup
- Paper shapes
- Chalk
- Chalkboard
- Student Worksheet (Shape Sorting)
- Magnetic shapes (optional)

Engagement:

Activity Title: "How Can Shapes Be Classified"

Procedure:

- The teacher should prepare a reusable container to fill with a variety of paper circles, squares, and triangles. Each shape should be in two noticeably different sizes, big and small. Per type of shape (triangles, squares, circles), for example there should be at least 2 big red triangles with dots, 2 big blue triangles with dots, 2 small red triangles with no pattern, and 2 small blue triangles with no pattern. This should be the same for each types of shape. You can use any color of pattern at all. It is best to stick with 2 colors and 2 patterns.
- Place your students in groups of four or five.
- Explain to students that today they will be engaging in a process called "classification".
- Tell the students to empty the container of shapes and sort them any way they desire. Give them a minute or two to do so!
- As a class, discuss how each group sorted, or classified, the shapes and what characteristics they noted. Write these characteristics down on the board.
- Ask the class to identify which student group they believe had the correct characteristics. They should believe it was their own group.
- Ask the students if they believed it is possible to sort or classify the shapes by more than one characteristic.

Exploration: