

Classification

Topic: Classification

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Appropriate Level: Grades 2-5

Time Requirements: Two 60 minute class periods

Abstract: Scientists use classification to group their objects of study in order to more easily understand the relationships between them. The Kingdoms in Biology, the Periodic Table of Elements in Chemistry, and the four food groups in Nutritional Sciences are examples of such classification schemes. In this lesson students will learn how to use some of the tools of classification by grouping objects according to their similar properties, creating a flow chart, or key, for classifying objects and identifying objects using a dichotomous key.

NYS Standards Met:

Standard 4E: The Living Environment (1): describe the characteristics of and variations between living and non-living things.

Standard 1E: Scientific Inquiry (3) all points

Materials Needed:

- Assorted Pasta
- Assorted dried beans (packaged 12+ bean soup works well)
- Assorted rocks (galena, hematite, pyrite, magnetite, white marble, quartz, talc, granite and pumice)
- Black construction paper
- Glass microscope slides
- Pennies
- Students handouts (attached)
- Answer Keys (attached)
- Alien cards (attached)

Safety Notes: There are no safety hazards associated with this activity

References:

<http://www.microbeworld.org/mlc/gifs/activities/pgs1-6.pdf>