

Organizing Things into Categories

READ ALOUD PASSAGE

When scientists study the world, they sort things into groups called categories. A category is a group of two or more things that share something in common. For example, you could sort a pile of buttons, coins, and pencils by color, by size, or by what they are used for. There is no single right way to sort things. The way you sort depends on what you are trying to find out. Sorting things into categories is not just something scientists do with objects. Our brains do it all the time. When you learn new information, your brain looks for ways to connect it to things you already know. Grouping ideas together helps you remember them better.

Categories can also be broken into smaller groups. Animals is a big category. Inside that category, you could make a smaller group called birds. Inside birds you could make an even smaller group called birds that can swim. Scientists use this kind of layered sorting to organize all of nature.

The most important thing to remember is this: when you sort things into a category, every item in that group shares something with the others. That shared thing is what holds the category together.

Activity 1: Sentence or Not?

Read each one out loud. Write S if it is a complete sentence. Write F if it is only part of a sentence. Then fix each F so it is a complete sentence.

☐

1. Birds can swim.

☐

2. Inside the big group.

☐

3. Scientists sort things.

☐

4. By color or by size.

First fragment, rewritten:

Second fragment, rewritten:

Activity 2: Grow a Sentence

This sentence is very short. Answer each question to add more information. Then put your answers together into one longer sentence.

START WITH THIS SENTENCE

Scientists sort.

When?

Where?

Why?

Write your expanded sentence:

Science Mad Lib

Fold the page on the dashed line so the story is hidden. Write a word for each blank. Then unfold the page, copy your words into the story, and read it aloud.

1 _____
A name

2 _____
A plural noun

3 _____
An adjective

4 _____
A noun for a place

5 _____
An adjective

6 _____
An adjective ending with -ness

FOLD HERE

THE STORY

_____ dumped a whole drawer of _____ onto the table. "Time to
1 2
sort!" they announced. First, everything _____ went into one pile.
3

Everything that belonged in the _____ went into another. Then
4

_____ 's little cousin sorted the leftovers by how _____ they felt.
1 5

"There's no single right way to sort," said _____, "as long as everything in a
1
group shares something." Their cousin made one last group, sorted by

_____.
6