

Concept Formation for Young Students: A Research-Based Teaching Strategy

Each student or group of students is given an envelope with pictures cut into squares the same size. The instruction is to put them into as many categories as they choose. They have to name the categories and justify why everything belongs.

The teacher can make a transparency of the pictures on the page before they are cut apart. Each group of student is called up to the overhead and is given a marker to place a symbol next to the items they selected for one of their categories. The rest of the class has to guess why the items all belong in the category.

Another way to do this is to have the students paste the items that belong together on a sheet of paper. Then they can explain to the rest of the class why they chose to place each item in the specified category or let the rest of the class guess.

