

Categories

Guided Practice Ideas Continued

With category pictures or word cards, have students divide into teams, e.g. the liquids and the insects team (or the "Wet Bugs") versus the mammals and planets team (or the "Hairy Planets"). Play a memory game. Alternately, simply see what team can be the first to get to 5, or 10 after the instructor picks cards from a pile.

Memory game: Each team turns over two cards. If they match two of their category members, they keep it.

Blurting game: Blur out category members one at a time. If a team member states that's mine before the other team states that's theirs, they get a point.

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Use magazines. Search for curriculum relevant categories that you'd expect to find in magazines, like liquids, capital letters, etc. Use these pictures for category card activities. Search for category names or names of members to find pictures. Cut and paste on a document, and print out when document is full. Glue onto index cards and/or laminate if desired.

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Use category cards with one picture on each. The cards can be purchased or make your own with clip art or pictures off the internet. Use at least thirty total cards with at least three members of each target category. Use as many as ten or fifteen different categories at a time. Mix them up and have students rearrange them. State the category labels and later ask students to state category labels.

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Write categories or category members on the board. If you write categories, instruct students to blurt out category members. If you write category members, instruct students to blurt out categories.

Functional Activity Ideas

Activities

You are helping to plan the menu for a new restaurant. You're in charge of the dessert (or something else).

You are describing America to a foreign friend. Use categories to describe the city you live in, the state, country, form of government etc.

Use categories to decide who goes first in an activity. Think of a category member. Each person takes turns guessing the category member. Whoever gets closest or guesses the correct member goes first.

Example Statements

"Let's serve apple pie, cookies, chocolate cake, and ice cream."

"I live in St. Louis. It's a city, like New York. We live in a state called Missouri, like California is a state."

"I'm thinking of a month. You guys keep guessing months until somebody guesses the one I'm thinking of. Whoever guesses it first (or gets closest) goes first."