

# Classification



This strategy allows students to demonstrate an understanding of **relationships between things** and helps them **clarify concepts**.

Used collaboratively, students develop **communication skills** and can **deepen their understanding** of the topic in hand.

- Select a number of categories within a topic.
- Identify the features that distinguish one category from another e.g. Irish History: Hunter Gatherers and the First Farmers nomadic v settled, Temporary dwellings v Wattle and Daub houses, Wild nuts and berries vs Cultivated crops.
- Ask the students to draw a table in their copies.
- The number of columns, 2 or more, will depend on the number of categories within the topic.
- The number of rows will depend on the number of distinguishing features of each category.
- Students are then asked to classify the distinguishing features under the correct category heading.
- Students should be able to defend their choices, identify items that don't fit and explain their reasoning.
- This is a useful strategy to use at the beginning of a lesson to test prior knowledge or after learning about categories and classification or when a unit is completed to review concepts and terms.

## Tips

- Classification is central to all the sciences. It is also relevant to aspects of history, geography, home-economics etc.
- Structuring this activity in groups provides a means of improved communication and organisation of information for students.
- Move around each group to ensure they are on task.
- To further develop students understanding once they have classified the items into groups ask them to identify the features that distinguish one category from another.



### Further Information

Further reading and support on implementing this strategy is available on [www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie)



## Key Skills

- ▶ Managing information and thinking
- ▶ Managing myself
- ▶ Communicating
- ▶ Being literate
- ▶ Being creative
- ▶ Working with others

## Resources

Pre-prepared list of categories and distinguishing features for each category

## Room Layout

Arrange students in **groups of 4** around a desk

## Assessment

Observe student understanding of material and inform future lessons

## Supporting Homework

By developing their ability to classify information students develop a greater understanding of the topic in hand thus enabling them to apply the information to higher order questions