

DODGE CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student Centered Classrooms

Identifying Similarities and Differences

Target Instructional Goal 50%

Identifying Similarities and Differences

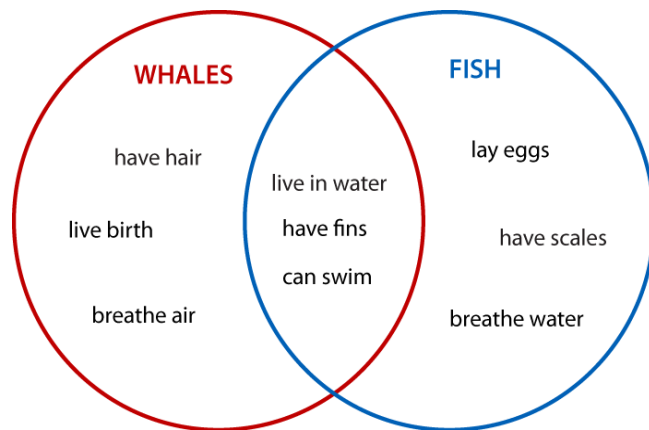
Enhance students' understanding of and ability to use knowledge by engaging them in mental processes that involve identifying ways items are alike and different.

Research Generalizations

1. Presenting students with explicit guidance in identifying similarities and differences enhances students' understanding of and ability to use knowledge.
2. Asking students to independently identify similarities and differences enhances students' understanding of and ability to use knowledge.
3. Representing similarities and differences in graphic or symbolic form enhances students' understanding of and ability to use knowledge.
4. Identification of similarities and differences can be accomplished in a variety of ways. The identification of similarities and differences is a highly robust activity.

Example Activities

- Venn Diagrams
- Comparison Matrix
- Analogies Organizer



Recommendations & Ideas

1. Use comparing, classifying, metaphors, and analogies when having students compare similarities and differences.
2. Give students a model of the steps for engaging in the process.
3. Use a familiar context to teach students these steps.
4. Use Graphic Organizers as a visual tool to represent similarities and differences.
5. Guide students as they engage in this process. Gradually give less structure and less guidance.