

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

Each student or group of students is given an envelope with words 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 words 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.

Ancient Egypt

Baskets	Sandals	Priests	Papyrus	Pyramid
Scribe	Pharaoh	Desert	Nile	Delta
Mummy	Drought	Polytheism	Anubis	Scarab
Flood	Ra	Giza	Tut	Sphinx
Rosetta Stone	Farmer	Tomb	Howard Carter	Artisan
Valley of the Kings	Wall Painting	Hieroglyphics	Rafts	Book of the Dead