

Instructional Activity: Tree Map

Instructional Goals:

- Categorize

Description:

This type of organizational is used to group things into different categories. Students need to understand the concepts in order to be able to compete this task. This map can only be used when you can break things down into different categories.

How to incorporate it in the classroom:

1. Teach the students the desired material.
2. See the example below to show students what the tree map looks like.
3. Put the overarching theme on the top line.
4. The students need to identify the various categories of the overarching theme. You can give them these when they are first learning how to use this map. If they need help, ask them what different things from the unit/lesson have in common.
5. Students need to draw the stems coming down from the overarching theme and write the title of each category on them.
6. Students need to group other items that either describe or are examples of the categories going down below the title of the category. (See example).
7. Have students share their tree map with their partner and explain why they grouped the items the way they did.
8. You can stop here and go over it as a class, or you can do the following extension if you are having the students create the map completely on their own.
9. Have 4 students get in a group and share their maps. They need to choose the one that makes the most sense. It could be a combination of more than one of the students' maps in the group.
10. Give each group a piece of butcher paper and a marker. Have them put their group tree map on it and hang it in the room.
11. Have students go around to each of the posters to see what each group came up with.

Example:

Math:

