

Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FIFTH GRADE

Title of Lesson: Classification using a dichotomous key

Theme: Life Sciences

Unit Number: 1

Unit Title: Classification of Jelly Belly Beans

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S5L1 (Classification lesson)

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions**
- Uses numbers to quantify**
- Works in a group**
- Uses tools to measure and view**
- Looks at how parts of things are needed**
- Describes and compares using physical attributes**
- Observes using senses**
- Draws and describes observations**

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Why do we use classification? Scientist use classification to distinguish similarities and differences categorize the kingdoms of plants, animals, ect.

Define: Dichotomous key-tool used to identify items, uses yes or no questions to lead to the correct name of the item

**Define: Taxonomy- helps name and group organisms according to their characteristics
For example, invertebrate vs. vertebrates**

Learning Activity (description in steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): The students will be given a few jellybeans to classify using a provided dichotomous key. The color, pattern, and lastly the taste of the bean will lead the student to matching to correct flavor to the appropriate jellybean.

Details: After the experiment, students should be able to understand how to classify things and understand that this is how scientists classify living organisms into the five kingdoms.

Materials Needed (type and quantity): 1 bag of Jelly Belly Beans and the dichotomous key for Jelly Belly Beans

Notes and Tips (general changes, alternative methods, cautions): Walk the students through an example and classify a jellybean using the dichotomous key. Make sure that each student has an idea of the possible flavor before eating the jellybean because this step cannot be repeated!

Sources/References:

1) Jelly Belly Bean Dichotomous key:

http://www.elco.k12.pa.us/online_homework/Bicher_notes/6th/11_KeytoJellyBelly.pdf