

Strategy #7: Word Sort

Grade 6 Social Studies

Purpose

- To activate and extend prior knowledge
- To categorize information and ideas through using terms (people, places etc.)
- To help students focus on material
- To help students make connections between what they know and what they are about to learn
- To review

Steps

Students work in groups.

The teacher prepares packages of cards containing the terms (including people, places, groups, Acts etc.) that are part of the content.

Each group receives a packages and sort the cards into categories. The students might be provided with categories and they might choose their own.

Students might also be given a few blank cards and they will generate new terms for the categories.

After the cards have been sorted they could be re-categorized.

Variations

Pictures and diagrams could also be used.

**Adapted from Teaching Reading in the Content Areas by Billmeyer and Barton
1998**