

Sorting Clouds

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, students will classify pictures of clouds using their knowledge of cloud shape, location, and weather patterns. Students will work in groups to sort teacher prepared picture cards of clouds.

Standards Addressed

- SC 2005 6-4.3 Classify shapes and types of clouds according to elevation and their associated weather conditions and patterns.
- SC 2014 6.E.2B.1 Analyze and interpret data from weather conditions (including wind speed and direction, air temperature, humidity, cloud types, and air pressure), weather maps, satellites, and radar to predict local weather patterns and conditions.

Disciplinary Literacy Best Practices

Card Sort

Lesson Plan

Time Required – One 45 minute class period

Disciplinary Vocabulary – cirrus, stratus, cumulus, nimbo-, alto-, fog

Materials Needed:

- 1 set of cloud picture cards per group of students, printed in color on card stock and laminated (Source: <http://www.free-pictures-photos.com/clouds/>)

Engage

- Review vocabulary and content from previous grades about types of clouds.
- Teacher will share additional information and vocabulary terms about types of clouds using the Clouds Powerpoint at <http://nenes.eas.gatech.edu/Cloud/Clouds.pdf> .

Explore

- Provide each group with the prepared cloud picture cards. Explain that they will be doing a Card Sort. As a group, they are to dialogue about each picture and decide on an appropriate way to classify the clouds and sort the cloud cards into groups. They are only allowed to use each other for information in order to sort the cards into the groups.
- Groups should record their card sort in their notebooks.
- Facilitate group dialogue and assist as needed with sorting the clouds. During this process, the best question to ask students is “what are some reasons you placed _____ card in this category”? Ask why and justify!

Explain

- Each student group will share their method for sorting the cloud cards and explain the reasoning behind their method. Teacher will facilitate class dialogue about the various sorting methods.

Teacher Reflections and Biographical Information

For future use cards should be laminated. Ensure enough time to prepare for this lesson. Printing and cutting cloud pictures can be time consuming. Thus, the reason you would want to laminate for future use.

Lesson Author: Brooke Miller, Math / Science 6th grade, Bell Street Middle School, Laurens School District 56