

Sorting Characteristics

Teacher Directions SMART Notebook File

This lesson idea comes from a lesson shared by David Sladkey, <http://pdtogo.com/smart/?p=169>, on Ben Hazzard and Joan Badger's podcast episode 137. It has been changed to a lesson on prefixes and root words by Marie Sontag. Precede this lesson with the Notebook file, "Prefixes and Root Words".

Put at least 12 words, pictures, diagrams, equations, or graphs on the left side of the next slide. Each item should be able to move independently. Once this is done, clone the page so that you can use the original over and over during the class.

Have students work in pairs and try to come up with as many common characteristics on their own, as they view the slides. Then come together as a whole class and have students come up to the SMARTBoard and sort the items and give a characteristic.

Once students write their characteristic, usually a rich discussion arises about another way to say the same characteristic (vocabulary!!!)

If students are struggling to find the characteristic that you want, you can give write out the characteristic and the students will have to pull at least three items over to the window.

Lastly, you could ask the students to come up with a challenge for the rest of the class by having them slide over 3 items and have the class guess the characteristic.

In this activity students are using what they know to build their knowledge. Students don't feel intimidated by this activity because they can find three items that have the same color and be correct!