



Social Studies Strategies: Inductive Reasoning

- Have students observe and identify items to be grouped (“Which items are shown in this picture?”).
- Identify the features (attributes) used to group each set of items (“Which items seem to belong together? Why?”)
- Name, label, or define each group (“What is a good name for each group?”)
- Have students develop a definition of the name (concept) for each group, using the features or attributes for each group.
- Test the definition by applying it to a wide variety of examples and non examples.
- Refine, modify, or adjust the definition of the concept to incorporate further examples identified. Inductive reasoning has the students classifying and identifying the concept from the facts identified in several examples and non examples.

Inductive reasoning works better with concrete concepts.



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