

Car Classification

Lesson at a glance:

Students will identify similarities and differences in vehicles while collecting, organizing and recording data on a Venn diagram.

Skills:

Reading, Writing, Comparing, Observing, Classifying and Identifying Characteristics

Grades:

3-5

Materials:

- ❑ Magazine pictures or small cars such as Hot Wheels
- ❑ An overhead transparency of a Venn diagram
- ❑ Copies of the Venn diagram printed on paper
- ❑ Pencils



Background:

Venn diagrams are diagrams that show all hypothetically possible logical relations between groups of things. They are used in many fields, including set theory, probability, logic, statistics, and computer science.

A Venn diagram lets students compare two kinds of vehicles by listing the separate and shared characteristics in the appropriate spaces.

Activity:

Part 1:

1. Show an overhead transparency of a blank Venn diagram. Begin a discussion with your students about Venn diagrams and their use in classification. "How many of you have ever used a Venn diagram before?" Discuss responses. Let students share past experiences with Venn diagrams.
2. Now give an example of how to use a Venn diagram. Compare an apple and an orange or two different kinds of shoes.
3. Discuss characteristics of each. "What does it look like? Look at the shape, color and size. What do you do with the object? What kind of food is it?" Decide as a class if each characteristic is a similarity (alike) or a difference (different). Label the chart with the responses.
4. Ask: "Who can tell me why we use Venn diagrams?" "When can we use a Venn diagram?"

Part 2:

1. Hand each student the worksheet with the car and jeep illustration.



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2. Have the students compare and contrast the vehicles on their worksheet.
3. As a group, have the class help you complete a Venn diagram on the overhead or white board.
4. Now hand the students a magazine or two cars. If they use the magazine, have them find two photos of two different types of vehicles.
5. Using the worksheet provided, have your students compare and contrast the vehicles using the Venn diagram worksheet.
6. Post the diagrams on the wall, or have your students present their charts to the class.

Assessment:

1. Class correctly fills out the Venn diagram using the fruit or shoe example.
2. Student correctly fills out the Venn diagram comparing the vehicles on the first worksheet.
3. Student independently fills out the worksheet using undetermined vehicles.
4. Student can describe similarities and differences to his or her classmates.
5. Student can use the similarities and differences to create a short story.

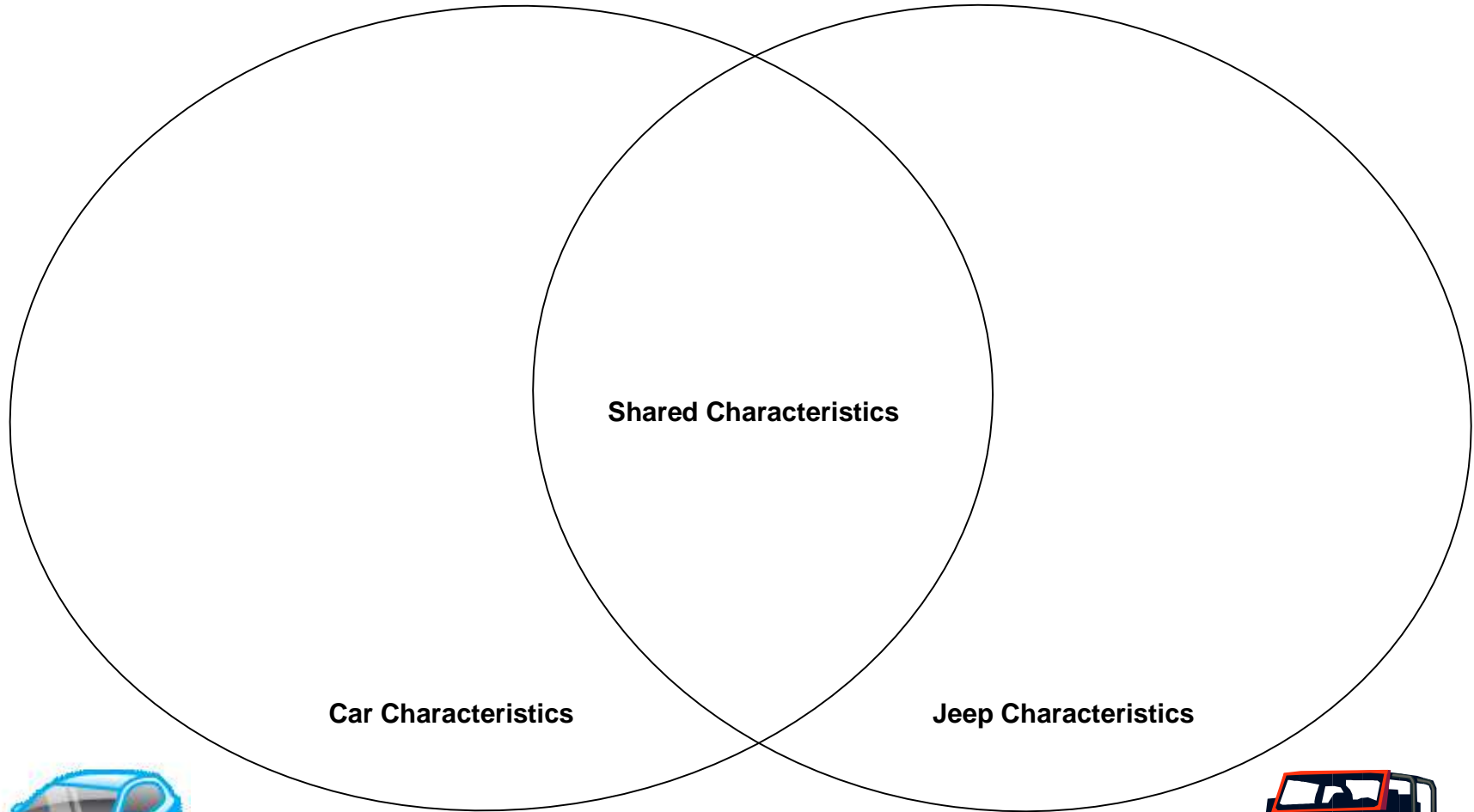
Extensions:

1. Have your students write a story using the words and phrases on their Venn diagram.



Comparing Vehicles

Use the Venn diagram to help you compare the similar and different characteristics of the two vehicles pictured below.



Comparing Vehicles

Use the Venn diagram to help you compare the similar and different characteristics of the two vehicles that you chose.

