

Classifying Data

1. Pair up with a partner.
2. Obtain a bag of mixed materials.
3. Pour the contents of the bag onto the table. Divide the contents into two groups based on similar characteristics.
4. Record the name and characteristics of each group on your chart.
5. Divide each of the two groups into two or three smaller groups. The items in each group must share at least one common characteristic. Give a name to each group based on the group's characteristics.
6. Record the characteristics of each group on your chart.
7. Continue to separate the items into smaller groups until each group contains only one type of item. Remember that items in a group must have characteristics that make them different from the items in the other groups.
8. Record the characteristics for each of the groups that you make on your chart.
9. Share your chart with your classmates. Communicate what characteristics you chose to distinguish each group.

