

Intro to Classification

Goal: Think about the characteristics we use to group things and experience the process of using characteristics to group things.

Materials:

- A big pile of assorted screws (we used 2,000!)

Directions:

Scientists like to group things together because it makes information easier to manage. Think about it, what if every song ever written was one giant playlist?!? Finding your favorite song might take a while. So you make playlists: “Doing Homework,” “Going for a Run,” “Dance Party!”

You and your table are going to be given a big pile of screws. Your job is to put them into unique piles. Unique means that each smaller pile of screws has only screws that are pretty much identical to the others in that pile *and* doesn’t have any screws that are pretty much identical to screws in another small pile.

Got it?

Okay.... Go... No, wait! Make notes below about what *traits* or *characteristics* you and your classmates used to put screws into much smaller piles. A trait or characteristic is a feature or component of a thing that can be seen. Now go!

What traits did you use?

Why was that helpful?
