

# Trilobite Species and Sorting

## Summary

A species is a group of living organisms with similar individuals that can exchange genes or interbreed. But there can be great variation within a species! For example, there are many different types of butterflies! In this activity, we will be using different household objects to model how variation is observed and categorized within a species.

## Materials

- Several of the same type of household item
  - *We recommend smaller, hands-on objects that can easily be sorted and handled such as buttons, beads, toy cars, balls, pebbles, seeds, etc.*

## Steps to Follow *(All activities must be done with adult supervision)*

1. Briefly review what a species is.
  - a. *Can you think of plants or animals that are the same species?*
  - b. *How are these organisms similar, how are they different?*
2. Lay your objects on the table or floor, spread them out a little so you can see them all.
3. Make observations about the objects.
  - a. *Are they the same size, color, texture, weight?*
4. Sort the objects into different piles based on their characteristics. The exciting thing about this activity is that you can categorize objects however you'd like!
  - a. *For example, if using balls you can sort by size, then sort by color, then weight, then texture, etc. There's no right or wrong way to organize them.*
  - b. *Some objects may not fit into any of the categories you have. Are these new species?*
  - c. *Some objects may fit into more than one category. Which characteristics are most important in determining how they're categorized?*
5. *Observe how many different species you have been able to create from one pile.*
  - a. *Does this number change when you categorize differently?*
  - b. *How many new species did you create?*

## Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards

Approaches Toward Learning/Engagement and Persistence/Persistence  
Cognition and General Knowledge/Cognitive Skills/Reasoning and Problem-Solving  
Cognition and General Knowledge/Mathematics/Algebra/Group and Categorize  
Cognition and General Knowledge/Mathematics/Measurement and Data/Describe and  
Compare Measurable Attributes

Cognition and General Knowledge/Science/Science Inquiry and Application/Inquiry

**Ohio Learning Standards:** K.LS.1, K.PS.1