

Strategy: VENN DIAGRAM

Overview:

The graphic organizer, Venn diagram, helps students see the similarities and differences between two or more things so that they can achieve a better understanding of a topic. Venn diagrams allow students to visualize the relationship between things through the use of a graphic organizer made by drawing two or more overlapping shapes. A student might use the Venn diagram to compare and contrast things, items, people, places, events, or ideas. Students record information inside different sections of the diagram to indicate how two things are related and unrelated.

Strategy:

Have students draw two circles that partially intersect or overlap. String, hula-hoops, colored yarn, or colored pens/pencils can also be used to make circles or cells for younger students. Older students might use a protractor or computer software program to draw their intersecting circles. Direct students to label the first circle with a “1” and a title that describes the first item and then label the second circle with a “2” and a title that describes the second item. Where the two circles intersect, students should label that section with a “3”. Inside the circles or under headings labeled “1” and “2”, students should record information that is unique to the separate items. In other words, this information will describe how the two things are different. In the intersection of the circles or under a heading labeled “3”, students should record how the two items are similar or related.

You are ready to TeachItNow! Here’s how you can use the “graphic organizer” strategy to teach setting using a Venn diagram. A learning target, instructional activity, and assessment technique are provided.

Learning Target:

Using a Venn diagram, students will compare and contrast two story settings. After completing the diagram, students will write a 3 paragraph essay comparing and contrasting the settings of two stories.

Activity:

Teach Story Settings with the “VENN DIAGRAM” Strategy

Apply the “Venn diagram” strategy to teaching similarities and differences between settings in 2 different stories by using a Venn diagram to record and help students visualize how 2 different story settings are related. This will improve students’ comprehension. The setting of a

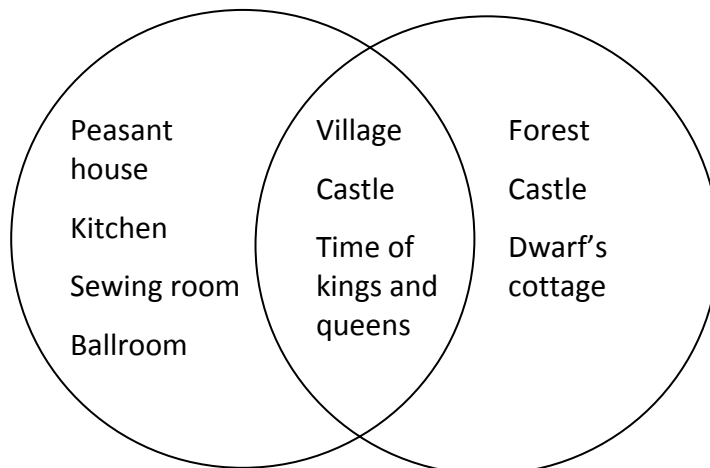
story is the time and place in which the story occurs. The place might be a forest, seashore, house or some other locale. The time might be during the Revolutionary War, present day, or some other time period.

After reading two stories, guide students as they fill in information in a chart to help them identify the settings in two stories. Model the creation of the chart using two familiar stories, Snow White and Cinderella. (See example below.) The teacher creates a chart on the white board or using a document camera. Students offer characteristics that fit each story.

Chart

Cinderella	Snow White
Peasant house	Queen's room
scullery	Queen's mirror
Sewing room	Forest
Palace	Dwarfs' cottage
Ballroom	Castle
Cellar	Coal mine
Attic	Bed in the woods
Carriage	Workshop
Streets	Time of Knights
Time of Monarchies	

Once the chart is complete, organize students into groups of 3. Using the information in the chart, have each group complete a Venn diagram that addresses the setting of the two stories.



Formative Assessment:

In their groups of 3, students will complete a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting settings of 2 stories the class or the group of students recently read. Once the Venn diagram is complete, check for accuracy by having groups report out and encourage all students to make corrections or additions.

When the Venn diagram is complete it can be used to help students write a 3 paragraph essay comparing and contrasting the setting of 2 stories.