



diagram:

a simple drawing or plan that shows where something is, what something looks like or how something works

Mars Rover Model Celebration – Lesson Plan

Introduction:

One of the new vocabulary words for this unit is “diagram”. A diagram is “a simple drawing or plan that shows where something is, what something looks like or how something works”. All of you have probably seen a pirate map and know that X marks the spot where the treasure is buried. What you may not have known is that that pirate map is actually a diagram because it is a simple drawing that shows exactly where something is.

If you speak Spanish, you might already be familiar with the word “diagrama”. Diagram and diagrama are cognates, words in two languages that look similar and share similar meanings. Diagram comes from the Greek word “diagramma” which means “something marked out by lines”. Many diagrams are actually line drawings, so the modern meaning for diagram is very closely related to the ancient Greek meaning from 2000 years ago. If you speak another language like Spanish, you can often figure out the meanings of new English words by checking to see if there is a cognate in your native language.

Example:

Let’s look at a picture that will better help us to understand the word diagram. This picture shows a picture of a volcano. Most of us have never actually seen a volcano, so a diagram is a great way for you to learn what a volcano looks like. Even if we did live near a volcano, it would not be possible to look inside the volcano or cut one open. A diagram like this one allows us to see inside the volcano to know how it works. Diagrams often have captions or labels that provide more information about the illustration. In this diagram, all of the major parts of the volcano are labeled which helps us understand the drawing better.

Reflection:

I am going to name some objects. If these objects are diagrams, I want you put your thumbs up and say DIAGRAM. If they are not diagrams, I want you to put your thumbs down and remain silent.

- A map of an amusement park showing the rides and attractions (thumbs up)
- A baseball card (thumbs down)
- A cage filled with parakeets (thumbs down)
- The illustrated instructions that show you how to build a piece of furniture (thumbs up)

Make it personal:

Think about how you have used diagrams at school and at home. Think about how the diagram helped you to learn where something was, what it looked like or how it worked. Share your experience with a neighbor. Then I will call on some of you to tell everyone how you have used diagrams in your life.