

## *Reading Tool*

Categories!  
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### **Strategies of Independent strategic Readers Supported by this Reading Tool:**

1. Have strategies to use when encountering new words.
2. Connect new knowledge to make meaning.
3. Think ahead to what might be coming.
4. Continually evaluate own understanding.
5. Create images of what is being read.
6. Periodically summarize and organize.
7. Use textual cues, visuals, and organization.
8. Have a plan for how to approach the task.

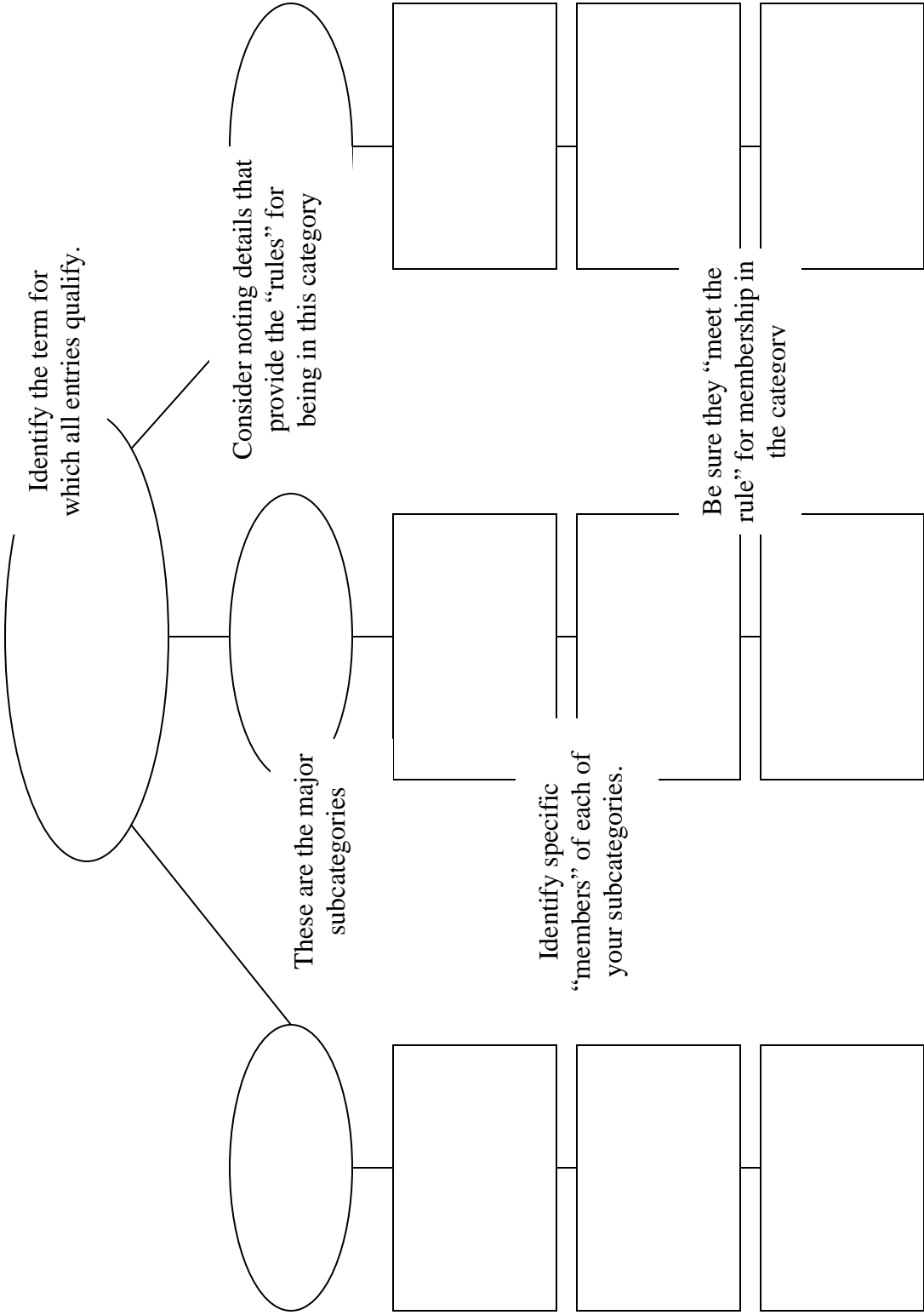
### **How to Use:**

- Identify the items to be classified into various categories.
- Identify the criteria to be used for classifying the items into categories. Be sure students are able to identify specific rules that will govern membership in each category.
- Ask students to explain the relationships that items have in each category.
- Ask students to justify or support for various items in each of the categories.

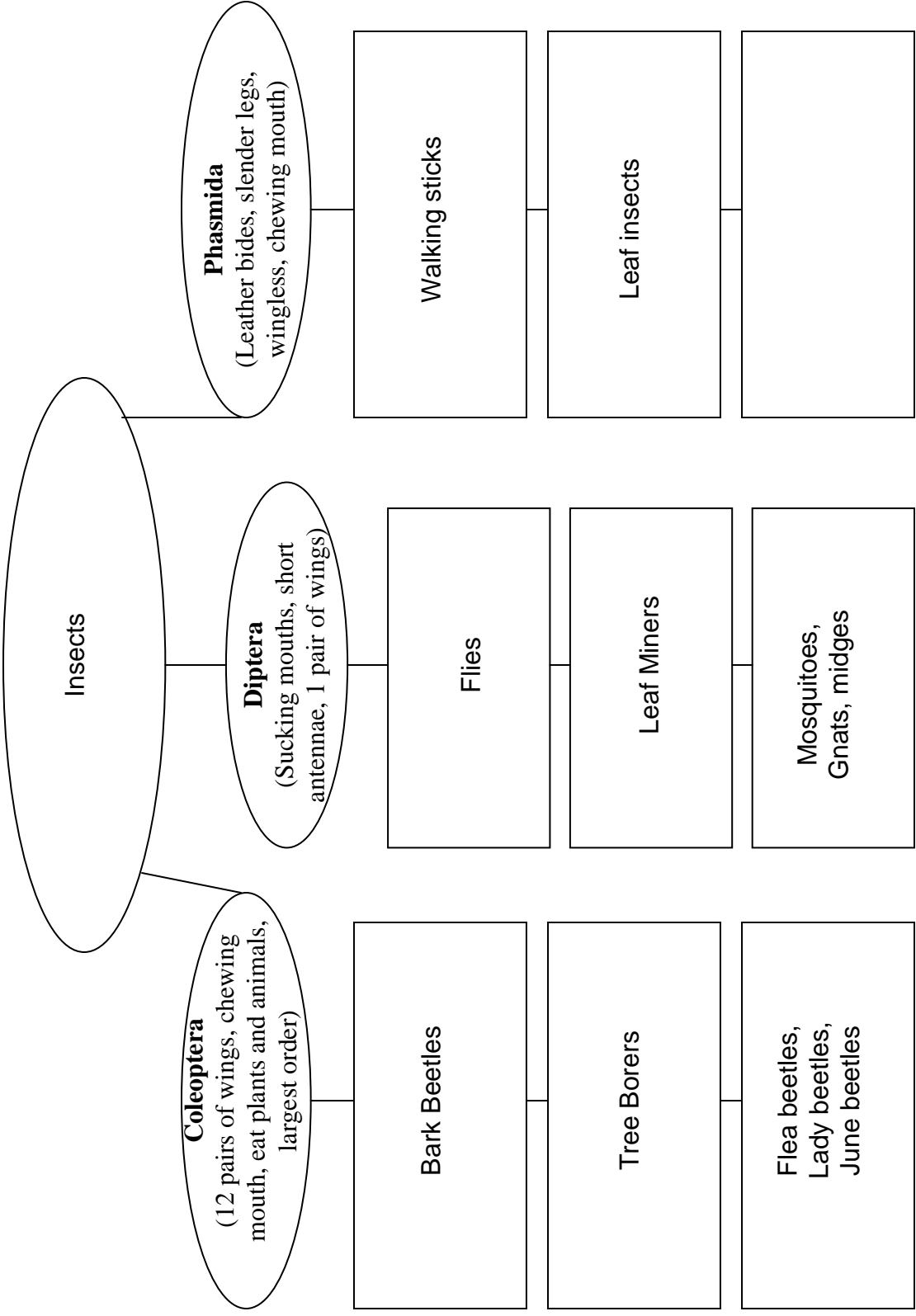
### **Tips / Variations:**

- Use this tool as you work with vocabulary in a unit. Asking students to categorize the words helps them to see relationships.
- Consider having your students work independently and then with peers to discuss the roles of membership. You may want them to share the items in the various categories they have created and then have other students try to identify the “rule” that allows the membership of the various items.
- Share with your students the benefit of classifying items into various categories. When students look closely at the critical elements in identifying the rules that support membership, they are deepening their understanding of the learning.
- Encourage students to identify additional items not on the original list that could be placed in the various categories based on the “rules of membership” that have been established.

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