

Modes of Transit

Companion Text: *The Jakry Kids: Curiosity Shop*, by Lin Jakary & illustrated by Ryan Olson
Subject Area & Grade Level: Mathematics, 2nd Grade

Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Explain the purpose of a Venn diagram
- Use a Venn diagram to display information

Activity

Read the story once through without stopping. Ask students how the Jakry kids traveled from their school to their home (walked). Draw two large, intersecting circles on the board, and put a large rectangle around them. Label one “takes the bus,” and the other one “gets picked up.” Ask for a show of hands of how many students in your class usually take the bus home from school, and write their names in the bus circle. Do the same for students who get picked up. Then, ask who walks home, and write the names of those students in the space around the circles, but inside the rectangle. Lastly, ask the bussers and car-riders if there are any of them who sometimes take the bus and sometimes get picked up. If there are, erase the names of those kids in their respective circles, and write them instead in the area in which the two circles overlap.

Explain that you just demonstrated how to organize information into something called a “Venn diagram.” A Venn diagram is good for comparing and contrasting information. This Venn diagram we just made provides an easy way to see at a glance how many students take each form of transport home from school. Call on students to explain what each section of the diagram means-- “The kids in the overlapping part have something in common with kids in both circles.” and, “The kids listed outside of the circles don’t have anything in common with either circle group.” Explain that the focus of Venn diagrams is on the circles rather than the outside area.

Reflection

Tell students that now they will get to make a Venn diagram of their own, comparing and contrasting modes of transit. Encourage students to share ideas with each other, since we are going to talk about it together at the end. Have students draw the following empty Venn diagram on a piece of paper, fill it in, and then discuss it. Focus discussion on the placement of ideas, rather than on critiquing them. A few ideas have been filled in for you as an example:

