

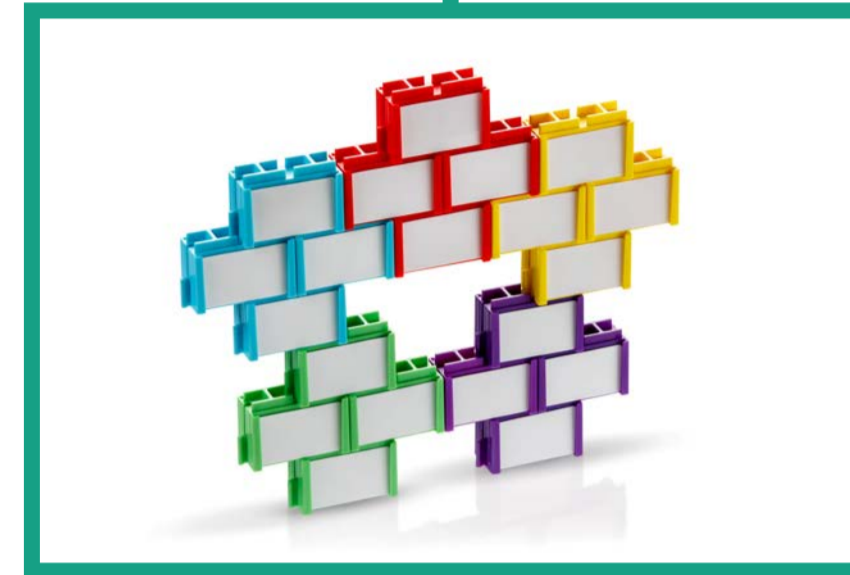
Building Conceptual Understanding

The construction of these mental models support learners in creating lasting conceptual understanding across different subject domains. The models help students make sense of the world around them by 'uncomplicating' abstract ideas and visualising the 'connectedness' of the curriculum. These knowledge structures provide learners with an engaging route into any topic.

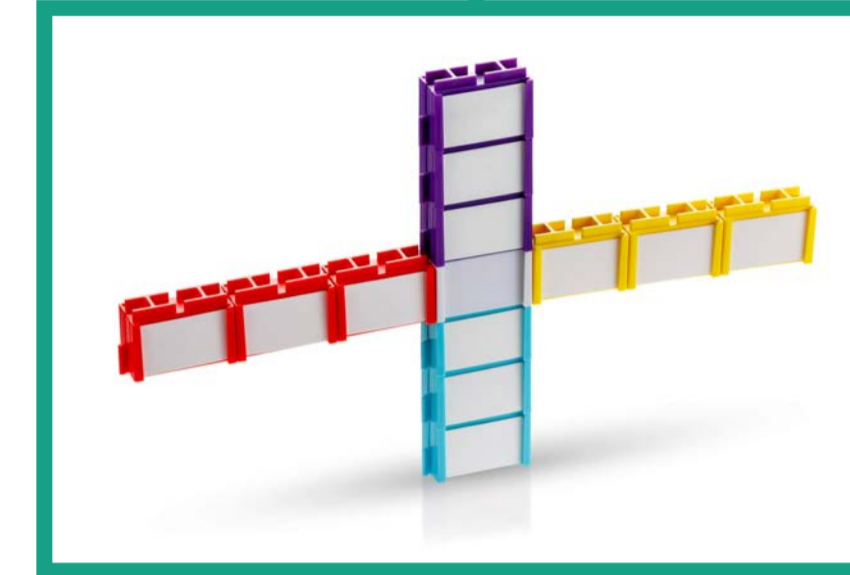
1 What is it like?

Describing and Categorising

The ability to observe, identify, describe and categorise is fundamental to human learning within and across all disciplines. This is the starting point for any new topics.



Mind Maps



Sorting Tasks

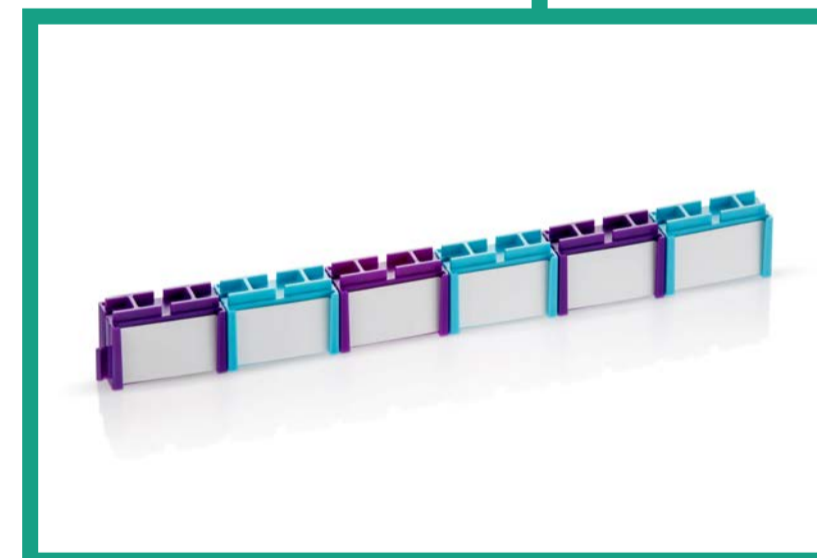
Purpose

- Start thinking about a topic
- Organise the content
- Identify themes
- Explore the inter-relationships of a topic
- See the relationship between the parts
- Stimulate the generation of ideas
- Reveal the hierarchy of ideas in a topic

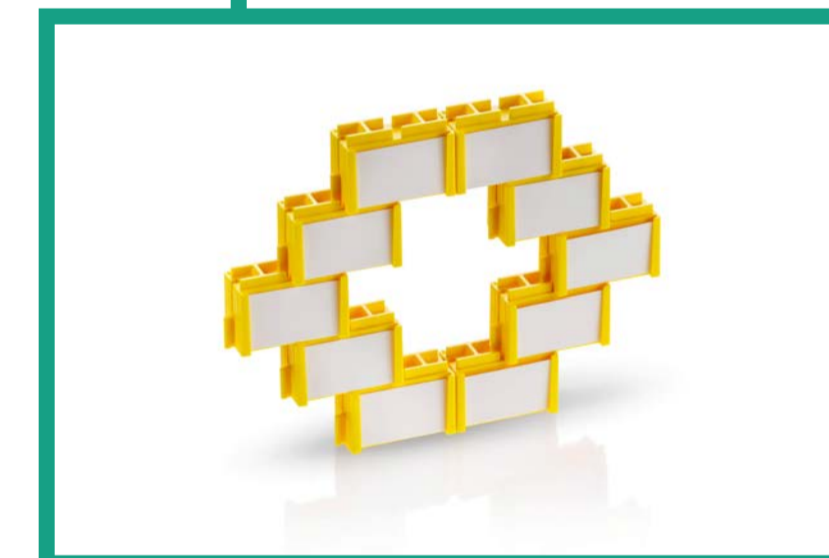
2 What happens and why?

Connecting: Sequencing and Causation

Helping learners to recognise that actions and events have reasons and consequences. The analysis of causal relationships is significant within and across all disciplines.



Timelines and Causal Relationships



Cycles

Purpose

- Represent the sequence of events
- Plot historical episodes
- Explain cycles in the natural world
- Storyboarding
- Identify the causes and effects of events
- Examine multi-causal relationships

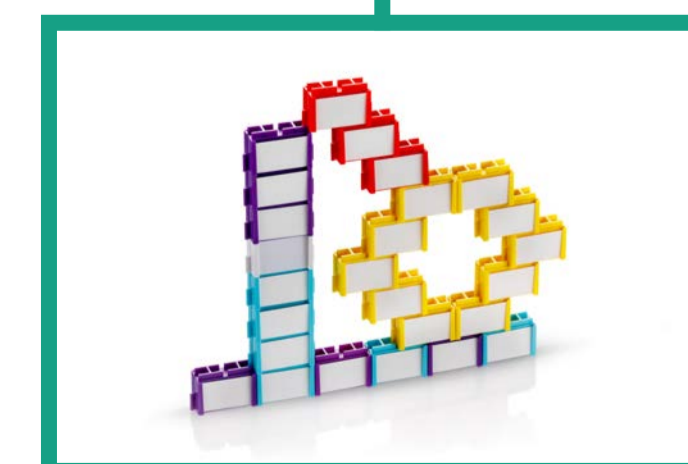
3 How is it similar or different?

Comparing: Similarities and Differences

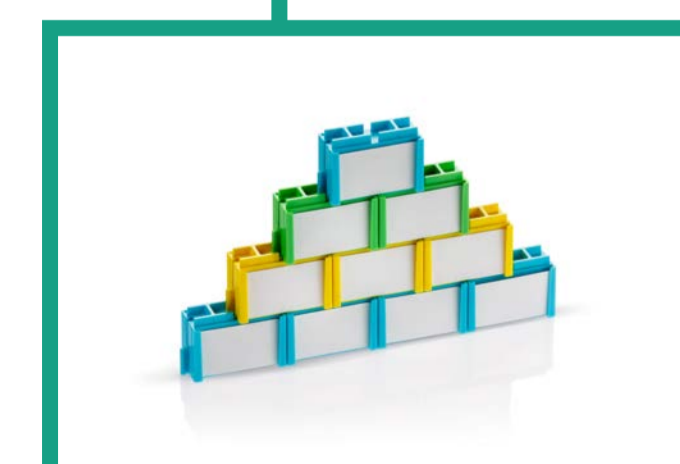
An essential aspect of understanding is how we draw boundaries between different ideas. Distinctions are used to challenge definitions and labels.



Comparing Two Things



'Bridge' two ideas together



Ranking Exercises

Purpose

- Identify the similarities between two topics
- Rank items to create new meaning
- New perspectives of the items being compared
- Make evaluations against a criteria
- Force learners to justify their judgements