

## Instructional Routines in Mathematics

# Which One Doesn't Belong?

### Overview

Which One Doesn't Belong? (WODB) is an instructional routine that emerged amongst math educators on twitter and although loosely related to the traditional Sesame Street version, the math version involves reasoning, comparing, explaining and justification of thinking. Four related items are presented in quadrant format. The items are connected, they belong together in some way. For example, they may all be polygons or they may all be two-digit numbers. Students are asked to consider what is unique about each item, compared to the other items. The challenge is for students to consider if they had to choose one item that doesn't belong, which one would it be and why.

Another way of reframing the routine to have more inclusive language (some teachers have expressed concern over the "not belonging" terminology) is to ask how the objects belong together, how is each unique and which one is most unique and why.

Students can also create their own WODBs with materials, pictures or words and numbers having to explain and justify the attributes of each item and what makes it unique from the others.



### Resources

wodb.ca

This website is curated by Mary Bourassa and is a collection of WODBs submitted by math educators from across the globe.

Richmond School District WODB blog posts:

<https://blogs.sd38.bc.ca/sd38mathandscience/2016/10/30/introducing-wodb-in-kindergarten/>

<https://blogs.sd38.bc.ca/sd38mathandscience/2016/10/16/introducing-wodbs-to-grades-45-at-westwind/>

Which One Doesn't Belong?: A Shapes Book by Christopher Danielson (picture book and teacher's guide)

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