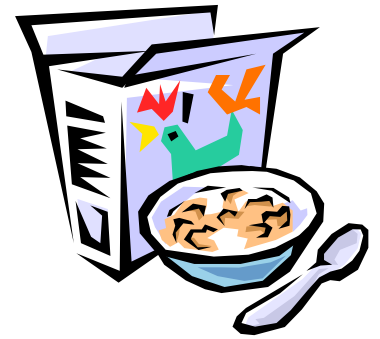


# GOT MILK? CEREAL SORT ACTIVITY



## Instructions:

1. Divide students into groups of 2-3 (They will stay in these groups for the seed sort activity).  
Give each group a white paper towel and mat board.
2. Give each group a bag of pre-mixed cereal. Have students sort out the 9 different varieties of cereal on the paper towel. There should be several individual pieces of each cereal. Ignore the crumbs.
3. Students should observe different characteristics of each cereal and list descriptive words for recording on the “Words to Sort” poster. Good descriptive words are frosted / not frosted, circular / not circular, holey / not holey and puffy / flat. Words describing specific color, shape and size can only be used when comparing two individual cereals. Highlight the best choices of words for classifying the cereal especially at the beginning of the process.
4. Give each group a blank, double-sided ledger-size dichotomous key chart. Write “cereal” at the top box of the key chart since this is the one common characteristic.
5. Have each group choose a highlighted characteristic from the “Words to Sort” poster to sort the cereal into two groups; such as holey / not holey OR frosted / not frosted. Write these words on the next row of boxes. Students take one piece of cereal from each pile and place it above the box describing its first characteristic. Leave the pieces there so it is a visual reminder of the grouping.
6. Students need to decide whether to continue on the right or left side of key chart next. Working on one side at a time keep them from getting confused. With each grouping, they leave one piece of cereal to show visual sorting.
7. The students should proceed to work their way through all of the pieces of cereal until each piece has been classified separately based on certain characteristics that make them unique.
8. Have each group, share their classification for one type of cereal.
9. Ask the students why each key, although they all started with the same types of cereal, are different. Are they all useable?