



How to Use and Create Venn Diagrams

Venn diagrams can help you compare topics or concepts. You can use a Venn diagram to show similarities and differences. A Venn diagram is made up of two or three circles that overlap each other. Each circle represents one topic or concept. The characteristics of that topic or concept are shown in that circle. The areas in which the circles overlap show the characteristics shared by the topics or concepts in all of the circles. Look at the example in figure 1. Then try creating your own Venn diagram using steps 1 through 5.

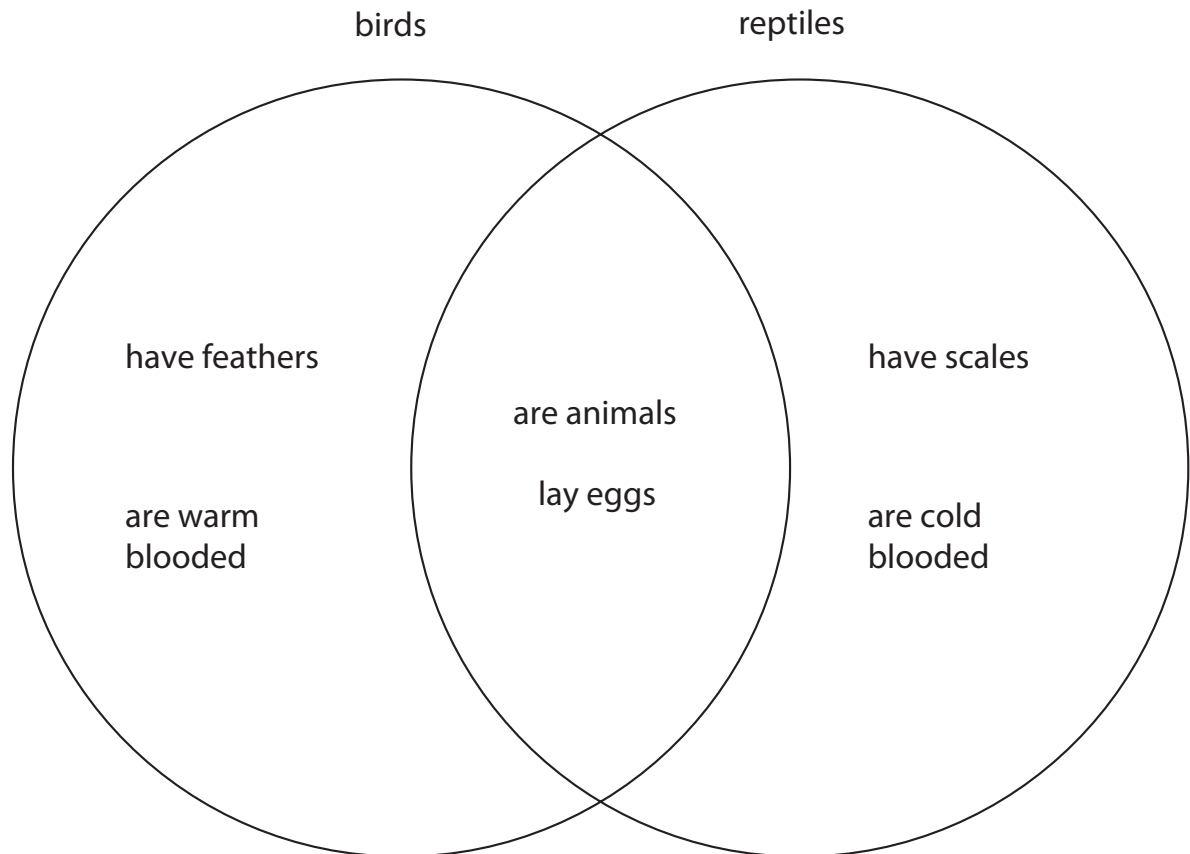


Figure 1: A Venn diagram. This Venn diagram compares birds and reptiles.

Venn Diagram Guidelines

1. Draw two overlapping circles. Use at least a one-half sheet of paper for each circle.
2. Label each circle with a topic or concept you are comparing.
3. Identify the important characteristics of each topic or concept.
4. Write down the characteristics that are specific to only one of the topics or concepts inside the circle, but outside the overlapping area.
5. Write down the characteristics that are common to both topics or concepts in the area where the circles overlap.