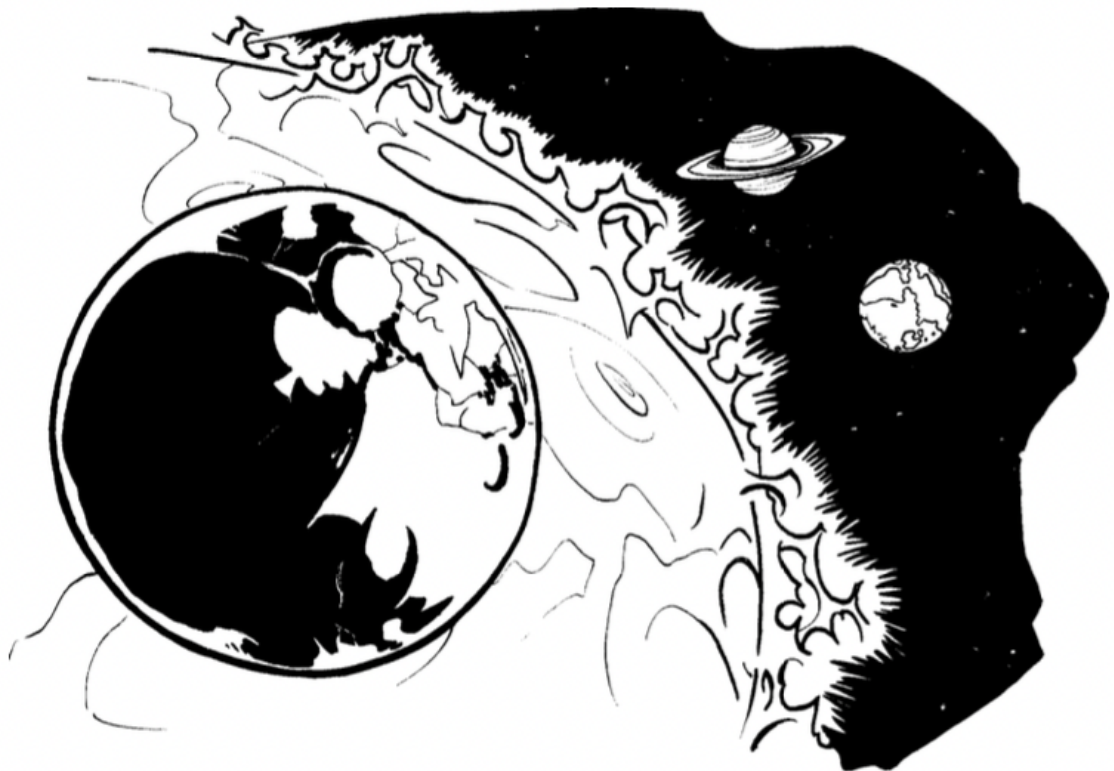


Categorising

- We categorise or place **similar things** into **groups** or **categories** that we then store in our brains. These categories are like topic folders.
- In our 'mental filing cabinet' we have files labeled 'red things', 'living things', 'large wild animals', and so on.
- By organising things into categories it is easy for us to quickly come up with examples of a category when we have to.
- The greater the number of things we carefully observe and compare, the greater the number of examples in the categories stored in our brain.
- The items in this lesson will test the kinds of labels you have used to categorise things in your mental filing cabinet.

Example

Things	Same because they are all...
Venus Earth Saturn	planets




Ordering in Terms of Size and Time

Ordering by Size

- In our brains we can also organise things in an **order** or **sequence**. For example, we order things in terms of such things as their size, speed, cost, and so on.
- Ordering and comparing things is all part of connecting them together in our memories in an organised way.

Example

Jumbled things	Order in decreasing size
forest branch tree twig	forest, tree, branch, twig

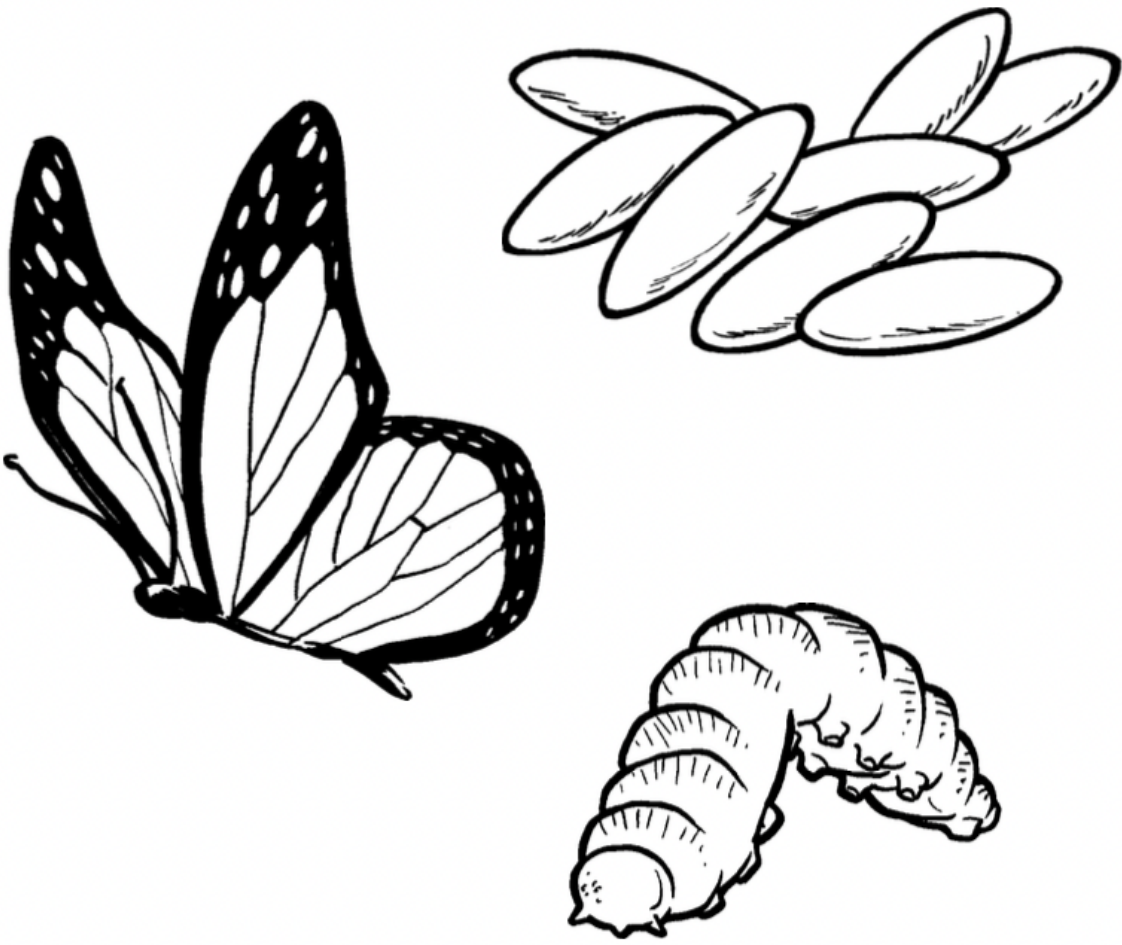
The illustration shows four distinct elements representing the items in the table. At the bottom left is a large, dense forest of many trees. To its right is a single, large tree with a thick trunk and a full canopy. Above the forest and single tree are two smaller elements: a single branch and a single twig, positioned from left to right in the upper middle section of the illustration area.

Ordering by Time

- As you have just seen, we order things in terms of their size, often without being told to do this.
- We also **order** things **in time**, or **when they happen** in a sequence.
- The example below serves as an illustration of **chronological** (time) **order**.

Example

Jumbled things	Order first to last occurring
cocoon, caterpillar, egg, butterfly	egg, caterpillar, cocoon, butterfly



The illustrations show the four stages of a butterfly's life cycle in a jumbled arrangement. In the top right is a cluster of small, oval-shaped eggs. In the bottom right is a segmented caterpillar. In the bottom left is a cocoon. In the top left is a butterfly with its wings spread, showing a pattern of black and white spots and lines.