Title:	Leadership Tools— Lotus Diagram
Author/Source:	FranklinCovey Education
Learning Objective:	Students will be able to describe how to use a Lotus Diagram
FranklinCovey Habit:	FranklinCovey Leadership Tools
Subject Area:	Science

Activity Time:	30 minutes	Grade Level:	K—2

Activity Type:	Check all that apply		
	Individual	Group	Homework
		X	

Set Up

Student Materials	Teacher Materials	Review
	Sam Who Never Forgets by Eve Rice Large Lotus Diagram with "Sam takes care of the animals" written in the center of the diagram.	Second Large Lotus Diagram

Introduction

The lotus diagram is a brainstorming and organizational tool that is used to define key concepts or parts of a whole. It is based on the concept that the center of the diagram is the main idea or focus, and the eight surrounding boxes are representative of the petals of a lotus flower. Each of the eight ideas would be related to the central concept. Students can use this tool to brainstorm around a particular topic or break down a bigger idea. For more advanced students, an expanded lotus can be created. The expanded lotus has nine large boxes as well, but each of the eight outer squares is divided into nine sections.

Display the Lotus Diagram. Tell the children you are going to read them a story and, after the story, the class is going to fill in the boxes of the Lotus Diagram together. Point out the center box which reads, "Sam takes care of the animals." Direct the children to listen to all the things that Sam the Zookeeper does to take care of the animals. Read, *Sam Who Never Forgets* by Eve Rice.

Activity

Ask, "Can someone tell me one thing that Sam did to take care of the animals?" Write or draw the suggestion in one of the boxes in the Lotus Diagram. As the boxes are being filled in, continue to refer to the center box as the main idea.

Wrap Up

When the Lotus Diagram is complete, discuss how the center box is the main idea of the story and all of the other boxes support the main idea.

Assessment

Display another Lotus Diagram. Write in the center box, "Things to do with a ball." Ask for a volunteer to explain what the class should do to complete the Lotus Diagram. Ask for suggestions to complete the Lotus Diagram. After completion, put students in groups of three to four. Have them discuss how to use a Lotus Diagram. Bring the class back together and have several groups share.

Extensions & Integrations

May be used in any curriculum area where you are looking for students to understand the supporting pieces of the main idea.

Title:	Leadership Tools—Lotus Diagram		
Author/Source:	FranklinCovey Education		
Learning Objective:	Students will demonstrate the use of a Lotus Diagram.		
FranklinCovey Habit:	FranklinCovey Leadership Tools		
Subject Area:	Social Science		
Activity Time:	25 minutes	Grade Level:	3—5
Activity Type:	Check all that apply		
	Individual	Group	Homework
		X	

Set Up

Student Materials	Teacher Materials	Review
Lotus Diagram for each group of four-five students.	Chalkboard or Whiteboard	

Introduction

The lotus diagram is a brainstorming and organizational tool that is used to define key concepts or parts of a whole. It is based on the concept that the center of the diagram is the main idea or focus, and the eight surrounding boxes are representative of the petals of a lotus flower. Each of the eight ideas would be related to the central concept. Students can use this tool to brainstorm around a particular topic or break down a bigger idea. For more advanced students, an expanded lotus can be created. The expanded lotus has nine large boxes as well, but each of the eight outer squares is divided into nine sections.

Draw a Lotus Diagram on the board. Explain to students that it is a tool used to help organize a main idea and the supporting ideas. In the center of the Lotus Diagram, write, "What I do at night to get ready for school." Gather students' ideas in the outer areas of the diagram, pointing out the center of the diagram as the main idea and the student suggestions are supporting ideas.

Activity

Put students in groups of four-five. Give each a Lotus Diagram and have them write, "Things to do at break time" in the center. Students will then gather their ideas in the outer sections.

Wrap Up

Bring the class back together to share their Lotus Diagrams.
If there have been difficulties during break time, point out the alternative activities they could choose.

Assessment

Student Lotus Diagrams will demonstrate understanding.

Extensions & Integrations

Incorporating this tool into the teaching of other curriculum areas will allow students to become more comfortable using it.