

Describing the Nine Animals Using Aristotle's Ten Categories

Each card below uses the Ten Categories as a thinking framework — the same categories that organize the N-Back, the Socratic questions, and the brain mapping. Practice with children by pointing to each house card and asking the category question.

How to Use These Cards Point to the animal on the house card and ask: 'What do you see?' (Who/What). Then move through each category in order. Let the child answer before you show the card. Accept any words they use, the goal is thinking, not getting it 'right.'	Good Questions to Ask 'How many legs does the spider have?' (Quantity) · 'What color is the bear?' (Quality) · 'What is the elephant doing?' (Action) · 'Where does the turtle live?' (Place) · 'What does the camel have with it?' (Possessions) · 'How does the snake make you feel?' (Reaction)	The Thinking Behind This Aristotle organized all of reality into ten categories 2,300 years ago. When a child describes a bear using Who/What, Quantity, Quality, Action, Place, Time, Possessions, Posture, Relation, and Reaction. They are using the same framework that organizes the N-Back, the Socratic questions, and the brain mapping table. The house card is the entry point. These categories are the door.
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Each category now shows its part of speech.

Who/What	Quantity	Quality	Action	Place	Time	Possessions	Posture	Relation	Reaction
Noun/Subject	Adjective	Adjective	Verb/Predicate	Object of Preposition Noun or Adverb	Adverb	Noun	Participles/Verbs	Noun/Preposition/ Adj	Adj/Verbs/ Participle

1 BEAR • Green House • Use Aristotle's Ten Categories to describe what you see

Who / What Bear	Quantity Four legs, one nose, two ears	Quality Green, furry, large, strong	Action Walking, foraging, sniffing	Place In the forest · in the green house
Time Awake in summer, sleeps in winter	Possessions Thick fur coat	Posture Standing on four legs, head down	Relation Mama bear, baby bear are part of a family	Reaction / Passion Growling, scary, powerful

2 FISH • Blue House • Use Aristotle's Ten Categories to describe what you see

Who / What Fish	Quantity Two eyes, fins, one tail, many scales	Quality Blue, shiny, smooth, spotted	Action Swimming, darting, gliding	Place In the water · in the blue house
Time Swims all day and night	Possessions Fins and scales	Posture Gliding through water, fins spread	Relation Part of a school of fish	Reaction / Passion Quiet, slippery, surprising

3 SNAKE • Red House • Use Aristotle's Ten Categories to describe what you see

Who / What Snake	Quantity Zero legs, one tongue, one long body	Quality Red, spotted, smooth, flexible	Action Slithering, coiling, flicking tongue	Place On the ground · in the red house
Time Awake in warm weather, hides in cold	Possessions Scales and a forked tongue	Posture Coiled in a spiral	Relation Part of the reptile family	Reaction / Passion Hissing, scary, surprising

4 ELEPHANT • Yellow House • Use Aristotle's Ten Categories to describe what you see

Who / What Elephant	Quantity Four legs, one trunk, two tusks, two big ears	Quality Yellow, wrinkled, very large, heavy	Action Walking, spraying water with trunk, trumpeting	Place On the savanna · in the yellow house
Time Travels long distances to find water	Possessions Trunk, tusks, large ears	Posture Walking tall, trunk swinging	Relation Herd animal: remembers family members	Reaction / Passion Loud trumpet, gentle, powerful

5 TURTLE • Black House • Use Aristotle's Ten Categories to describe what you see

Who / What Turtle	Quantity Four legs, one shell, one head, one tail	Quality Black and brown, hard shell, slow-moving	Action Walking slowly, hiding in shell	Place On the ground, near water · in the black house
Time Lives a very long time — one of the oldest animals	Possessions Shell: its home it carries everywhere	Posture Low to the ground, slow and steady	Relation Lives alone, steady and independent	Reaction / Passion Quiet, steady, determined slow wins the race

6 HORSE • Orange House • Use Aristotle's Ten Categories to describe what you see

Who / What Horse	Quantity Four legs, one mane, one long tail, four hooves	Quality Orange/chestnut, smooth, strong, tall	Action Running, galloping, standing, neighing	Place In the field · in the orange house
Time Runs fast — can travel far in one day	Possessions Mane, tail, and hooves	Posture Standing tall, head raised proud	Relation Works with and for people	Reaction / Passion Neighing, strong, graceful, beautiful

7 CAMEL • Brown House • Use Aristotle's Ten Categories to describe what you see

Who / What Camel	Quantity Four legs, one hump, one leash or rope	Quality Brown, rough fur, tall, patient	Action Walking, carrying heavy loads, chewing	Place In the desert · in the brown house
Time Can go many days without water	Possessions Hump (stores fat), colorful saddle blanket, leash	Posture Walking with long stride, head held high	Relation Carries people and goods across the desert	Reaction / Passion Stubborn, strong, patient, reliable

8 SPIDER • White House • Use Aristotle's Ten Categories to describe what you see

Who / What Spider	Quantity Eight legs, two body parts, eight eyes	Quality White / gray, small, delicate, quick	Action Crawling, spinning a web, waiting	Place On the web · in the white house
Time Spins web at night, waits by day	Possessions Web — its home and its trap	Posture Hanging from the web, crouching	Relation Lives alone in its own web	Reaction / Passion Scary, surprising, clever and patient

9 PIG • Purple House • Use Aristotle's Ten Categories to describe what you see

Who / What Pig	Quantity Four legs, one snout, one curly tail, two ears	Quality Purple, round, smooth, sturdy	Action Sniffing, oinking, looking up, trotting	Place On the farm · in the purple house
Time Active during the day, playful and curious	Possessions Snout for digging, curly tail	Posture Standing with snout raised up, looking up	Relation Lives with other pigs on a farm	Reaction / Passion Oinking, curious, friendly, playful

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13.8: Presidents 1–9: Mnemonic Pictures & Aristotle's Ten Categories

The 1-9 president image encodes the number, color, and symbol from the N-Back house card system. Use the Ten Categories below to describe what you see in each picture. The same questions used in every EMCDC session. Yo, Millard Fillmore book.

***This chart is an example and can be shortened or expanded. Focus on what is in the next picture from the last picture.**

How to Use These Cards Point to the mnemonic picture and ask: "What do you see?" (Who/What). Then work through each category. The visual details, color, symbol, position, action, all answer a category question. Let the learner discover the connections.	The Encoding Chain Each picture encodes: president number (Quantity) · house color (Quality) · symbol shape (Quality) · (Relation) · relationship to previous president picture. What from the next picture that was in the last picture? The N-Back is visible in story form.	The Story Thread The nine images form a chain: Washing Machine → Atoms in machine → Boy cooking atoms → Boy sees a Mad sun → Mad sun above water & Money rowing away from sun → Money/Coins hitting dam → Jacks over dam → Jacks on wheels of van in clouds → Hairy van in hay.
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Who / What	Quantity	Quality	Action	Place	Time	Possessions	Posture	Relation	Reaction
Noun	Adjective	Adjective	Verb	Obj. of Prep.	Adverb	Noun	Participle/Verb	Noun/Prep/Adj	Adj/Verb/Participle

1 GEORGE WASHINGTON — Washing Machine · 1 · Green · Circle

Visual Details: Green grass · circle in washing machine door · circle = 1

Who / What <i>Noun</i> washing machine, house, clothes WASH + ing + ton = Washington	Quantity <i>Adjective</i> 1 large/ gigantic/ heavy washing machine	Quality <i>Adjective</i> White machine and house, Green circular grass	Action <i>Verb</i> Washing, spinning	Place <i>Object of Preposition</i> on the green grass
Time <i>Adverb</i> Day time, summer 1 st president	Possessions <i>Noun</i> Laundry baskets, ladder, detergent, flag, windows	Posture <i>Participle</i> upright	Relation <i>Noun / Preposition</i> House behind machine, ladder in front of machine, detergent on the right of machine	Reaction / Passion <i>Adjective</i> Powerful spin! Overflowing!

2 JOHN ADAMS — Atoms in the washing machine · 2 · Blue · X

Visual Details: Blue water · X marks on atoms · still inside the washing machine

Who / What <i>Noun</i> Washing machine, atoms (flowers) Atoms = A + DAMS = Adams	Quantity <i>Adjective</i> 10 atoms	Quality <i>Adjective</i> Blue water · X shapes on the atoms, purple atoms	Action <i>Verb</i> Bouncing, spinning, floating in the water	Place <i>Object of Preposition</i> Inside the washing machine · in blue water
Time <i>Adverb</i> Day time 2 nd president	Possessions <i>Noun</i> Control knobs, the blue water	Posture <i>Participle</i> Open lid	Relation <i>Noun / Preposition</i> Inside the same machine as Washington picture	Reaction / Passion <i>Adjective</i> Energetic! Bouncing!

3 THOMAS JEFFERSON — Boy cooking at a grill · 3 · Red · Box

Visual Details: Red hair on boy · Atoms are being cooked · box on apron

Who / What <i>Noun</i> Boy and atoms Boy = Chef's Son = Jefferson	Quantity <i>Adjective</i> 8 years old, 4 atoms	Quality <i>Adjective</i> Red hair, square box on apron, green/black striped shirt	Action <i>Verb</i> Cooking, grilling, flipping	Place <i>Object of Preposition</i> Outside at the grill
Time <i>Adverb</i> Summer time, day time 3 rd president	Possessions <i>Noun</i> Grill, pan, apron with square box, spatula, chef's hat, salt	Posture <i>Participle</i> Standing, leaning over the grill	Relation <i>Noun / Preposition</i> Father and son/grandfather	Reaction / Passion <i>Adjective</i> Hot! Sizzling! Creative! Happy!

4 JAMES MADISON — Mad sun under the grill · 4 · Yellow · Line Under

Visual Details: Yellow sun under the grill · mad angry face ·

Who / What <i>Noun</i> Boy, Sun = MAD + Sun = Madison	Quantity <i>Adjective</i> One sun and one boy	Quality <i>Adjective</i> Yellow · mad face angry expression, scared, hot	Action <i>Verb</i> Shining, scowling, jumping, boiling water	Place <i>Object of Preposition</i> Under the grill
Time <i>Adverb</i> Summer time, day time 4 th President	Possessions <i>Noun</i> Sunrays · pan	Posture <i>Participle</i> Bending over, arms out	Relation <i>Noun / Preposition</i> Under the grill, mouth is open	Reaction / Passion <i>Adjective</i> MAD! Furious! Blazing with anger! Scared, surprised

5 JAMES MONROE — Money rowing away from the mad sun · 5 · Black · Line Above

Visual Details: black mouth · sun is ABOVE the water · rowing away from the yellow sun

Who / What Noun Money rowing = MON + ROE = Monroe (money = mon, roe = rowing away)	Quantity Adjective 5 five dollar bill, 1 boat, 2 oars	Quality Adjective Orange coins, wooden oars	Action Verb Rowing, fleeing, pulling away from the sun	Place Object of Preposition On the water
Time Adverb 5th President	Possessions Noun Coins (money), the oars	Posture Participle leaning into the oar	Relation Noun / Preposition moving AWAY FROM the sun	Reaction / Passion Adjective Determined! Fleeing! Rowing hard!

6 JOHN QUINCY ADAMS — Money in boat hitting a dam · 6 · Orange · Slash /

Visual Details: Orange coins · boat · diagonal oar · brown stone dam/wall

Who / What Noun Boat hitting a dam = MONEY + DAM = Adams again (son of #2)	Quantity Adjective Many coins in the boat	Quality Adjective Orange coins, brown stone dam, diagonal oars	Action Verb Crashing, hitting, slamming into the dam	Place Object of Preposition On the water, at the dam
Time Adverb Day time 6th President	Possessions Noun Coins, oars	Posture Participle Crashing forward, stopped boat pitched at angle	Relation Noun / Preposition son of John Adams (#2)	Reaction / Passion Adjective CRASH! Blocked!

7 ANDREW JACKSON — Jacks flying over the dam and fish · 7 · Brown · (left parenthesis

Visual Details: Jacks on playing cards · brown stone dam wall · J and Fish tail have a curve)

Who / What Noun Cards, fish, dam, Jacks = JACK + SON = Jackson (the toy jacks are Jackson)	Quantity Adjective One fish, many cards	Quality Adjective Brown stone dam, jacks on cards, blue fish	Action Verb Flying, leaping, soaring over the dam	Place Object of Preposition In the water, in the air
Time Adverb Day time 7th President	Possessions Noun Cards have jacks	Posture Participle Flying over · airborne ·	Relation Noun / Preposition OVER the dam	Reaction / Passion Adjective Free! Flying!

8 MARTIN VAN BUREN — Van driving in the clouds · 8 · White () parentheses

Visual Details: White clouds · () parenthesis shapes · van driving · gray sky

Who / What Noun Van, s Van = VAN + Buren = Van Buren (the van IS the name)	Quantity Adjective 4 Jacks, 1 large van,	Quality Adjective White clouds, () parentheses / web shapes	Action Verb Driving, rolling, moving through clouds	Place Object of Preposition In the clouds, on the road
Time Adverb Day time 8th President	Possessions Noun Spare wheel on back, bureau on top · the white clouds · () shapes	Posture Participle Moving forward	Relation Noun / Preposition Bureau on top of van	Reaction / Passion Adjective Bouncing

9 WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON — Hairy van covered in hay · 9 · Purple · line in the middle

Visual Details: Purple/blue van from previous picture · van covered in hay · IN THE MIDDLE of the haystack

Who / What Noun Van, fence, field = HAIRY + SON = Harrison (van is hairy/covered in hay)	Quantity Adjective 1 van	Quality Adjective Purple · covered in hay · hidden and hairy, white fence, green field	Action Verb Hiding, being covered, disappearing into hay, driving	Place Object of Preposition IN THE MIDDLE of the hay · hidden inside, road, field
Time Adverb 9th President died after only 31 days!	Possessions Noun The hay covering the van · purple color from #8	Posture Participle Hidden · buried in the middle · covered over	Relation Noun / Preposition same van as #8 but now hairy IN THE MIDDLE	Reaction / Passion Adjective Gone! Disappeared!

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13.9: Equipping Minds to Reach Their Full Potential Condensed Handout

ACTIVITY	WHAT YOU'LL NEED	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date
Always Model, "We will do this together, I will help you" Say, "I see you ____" What do you see yourself doing? Ask, "What do you see?" "Start with what they know and gradually add."						
Let's Match/Extreme Memory Match 1 - 2 items, then 3, 4, 5,6 then try covering and matching Advanced: Memorize 1 card, add 2, 3, 4, and continue adding.	Cubes, letters, numbers Blink, Uno, EM Cards					
Tic-Tac-Toe & EM Xtreme Cards Play Tic-Tac-Toe on one board, then two boards on any of the different options. Numbers, letters, animals, presidents, colors.	Tic Tac Toe Board Unifix cubes					
Sorting Say the number on the card, then sort by number saying, "2 on 2", Say the color, then sort by color saying, "red on red", say the shape and sort by animal saying "bear on bear."	Deck of Cards, Uno, Blink, EM cards, SET					
Taking Turns Alternate saying the number, then color, then animal Alternate every three cards saying "four, red, bears"	Cards, Blink, EM cards 1-5 & 1-9					
Taking Turns with Numbers (+ and -) Say what the number would be if you added 1, "4 would be 5" Then, say what the number would be if you subtracted 1. Then, alternate saying =, +, - You can + and - 2, 3, 4, and multiply.	Deck of Cards Blink, Uno, EM cards 1-5 & 1-9 page					
Numbers 1-5 & 1-9 – Symbols Say what you would do for the symbol: "I see myself drawing a circle around the 1, X the 2, Box the 3, underline 4, line above 5, slash 6, C/leash the 7, parentheses the 8, midline 9" - Add gradually.	1-5 & 1-9 page					
Numbers 1-5 & 1-9 – Colors Say what you would do for the color: "I see myself putting green on 1, blue on 2, red on 3, yellow on 4, black on 5, orange on 6, brown on 7, white on 8, purple on 9" - Add gradually- use unifix cubes.	1-5 & 1-9 page Unifix cubes					
Numbers 1-5 & 1-9 – Animals Go through each card saying the animal for each number: "1 green bear, 2 blue fish, 3 red snakes, 4 yellow elephants 5 black turtles, six orange horses, 7 brown camels, 8 white spiders, 9 purple pigs" Add gradually.	1-5 and 1-9 page					
Stroop Animals Draw & say the symbol for 20 animals adding gradually. Say, "I see myself drawing a circle around the bear, box around the snake, x on the fish, triangle around the cat, line under the elephant, line above the turtle, smiley face on penguin's belly, nest under the bird, unicorn on horse, claws on tiger, web on spider, 3 eggs under chicken, bacon on pig, tree in front of giraffe, bucket under cow, hump/leash on camel, lily pad under frog, stinger on bee, tall grass on zebra, waves on crab.	Stroop Animal symbols on animals correspond with symbols on number, colors, letters, and vowels but NOT in the same order					
Presidents Describe using Ten categories/ say number and full name "1 - George Washington, 2 - John Adams" * Advanced: continuing learning all 47 presidents. Say president with the number on 1-9 page, EM Cards.	EM Cards Pictures of Presidents 1-47 1-9 page					
Numbers 1-9 & Letters A-1, B-2, C-3, D 4, E-5, F-6, G-7, H-8, I-9	1-9, A- I Tic Tac Toe					
Vowels vowel circle a, X e, box i, underline o, line above u	Vowel sheet					
Numbers 1-5, 1-9, Arrows – Taking Turns (N-Back) - Advanced Alternate every two numbers: "8, black" (number, color)" Then, alternate every three numbers: "7, blue, bears"(number, color, animal) Alternate every four numbers: "7, blue, bears, James Monroe" Then five: "7, blue, bears, James Monroe, box" Then six cards: "7, blue, bears, James Monroe, box, letter D or vowel."	Number 1-5 & 1-9 Arrows Colored Words					

Ten Categories/Stare Describe what you see following the ten categories: what, quantity, quality, action, possessions, where, when, reaction, posture, relation.	Picture Cards					
Spot It Describe 1 constant card "I see a green frog.." find the match to items on the constant card. Recall items on constant card. Turn card face down. Add a second constant card. Put 9 cards in 3x3 grid – find 3 matches.	Spot it					
Color Code, Qbitz Jr. Uzzle Stack Royal Lay out the pieces strategically, avoid trial and error						
Set Show & say the 2 solid cards, find 3rd. Student says what they see (one solid green diamond, one solid red oval) and then you will ask what number, color, and shape is needed. (one solid purple squiggle).	Set Cards					
I See You & Find It Write It Say It & Visual Auditory Recall "I see you finding "2 red hearts", then I see you finding "5 black clubs and 7 red diamonds." What do you see yourself doing? Do it Recall numbers forwards/backwards, Recall words and pictures.	Cards, Items in house					
Finger Exercises and Starfish Tap 60 seconds, shuffle cards.						
Make a List List all of the animals you know in 1 minute. Categorize items.	Known categories					

1-5

Numbers	1 (Ace)	2	3	4	5
Symbol	Circle	X	Box	Underline	Line over
Color	Green	Blue	Red	Yellow	Black
President	George Washington	John Adams	Thomas Jefferson	James Madison	James Monroe
Animal	Bear	Fish	Snake	Elephant	Turtle
Letter	A	B	C	D	E
Month	January	February	March	April	May
Vowel	a	e	i	o	u
Direction	Up	Up Right	Right	Down Right	Down

6-9 Advanced

Numbers	6	7	8	9
Symbol	Backslash	"C"/hump/leash/ left parenthesis	Parentheses	Midline
Color	Orange	Brown	White	Purple
President	John Quincy Adams	Andrew Jackson	Martin Van Buren	William Henry Harrison
Animal	Horse	Camel	Spider	Pig
Letter	F	G	H	I
Month	June	July	August	September
Direction	Down Left	Left	Up Left	Up (orange, brown, white, purple)

N-Back Checklist

Group _____

Stroop
Animals

Bear	Snake	Fish	Cat	Elephant	Turtle	Penguin	Bird	Horse	Tiger
Spider	Chicken	Pig	Giraffe	Cow	Camel	Frog	Bee	Zebra	Crab

Code
Animals

Bear	Fish	Snake	Elephant	Turtle	Horse	Camel	Spider	Pig

Numbers/
Symbols/
Colors

1 /  Green	2 / X Blue	3 /  Red	4 / _ Yellow	5 /  Black	6 / \ Orange	7 / (Brown	8 / () White	9 / — Purple

Letters/
Vowels

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
a	e	i	o	u				

Presidents

GW 1	JA 2	TJ 3	JM 4	JM 5	JQA 6	AJ 7	MVB 8	WHH 9	JT 10	JKP 11	ZT 12	MF 13	FP 14	JB 15	AL 16	AJ 17	USG 18
RH 19	JG 20	CA 21	GC 22	BH 23	GC 24	WM 25	TR 26	WHT 27	WW 28	WGH 29	CC 30	HH 31	FDR 32	HST 33	DDE 34	JFK 35	LBJ 36
RN 37	GF 38	JC 39	RR 40	GHB 41	BC 42	GWB 43	BO 44	DT 45	JB 46	DT 47							

Months

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December

Directions

Up 1 and 9	Up Right 2	Right 3	Down Right 4	Down 5	Down Left 6	Left 7	Up Left 8