



**ENCYCLOPEDIA BROWN  
AND  
THE CASE OF THE TREASURE HUNT  
by  
Donald J. Sobol**

Encyclopedia Brown does an excellent job of using all his process skills, but I'm sure he can classify clues quickly in his head. He must have a simple way of sorting these clues away from seemingly extraneous information.

The skill of classifying needs to be worked on continually at all grade levels of science. Here is a simple activity involving a "missing person". Usually one of the best clues in such cases is a picture of the person; however, there are only pictures of all other members of the family. Students can test their abilities to classify or to see the similarities and differences in Mr. X's family. They should then be able to draw Mr. X!

**MATERIALS:** scissors, two attached sheets

**ACTIVITY:** Cut out family members, Sort and classify them until you have an idea of Mr. X's characteristics. Draw Mr. X.

**SOURCE:** Rebecca Dewey, SMU Summer Workshop, July 1990.

**TEACHER NOTES:** There are many ways to sort these cards and your students will come up with new ones. I started by sorting the cards into two piles based on facial expression: happy (smiling) face and sad (down-turned mouth) face. Then I paired the cards by body "decorations" such as stars, triangles, etc. I determined that in each pair of people, one had a round body and one had a narrow body. I also found that one family had three members. The remaining card showed a person with curly hair, a round body with an open cross or four-leaf clover, and two arms. I decide Mr. X would have curly hair, a skinny body, and three arms. The important outcome here is for the students to learn to sort and be able to justify their results as well as explain their reasoning.

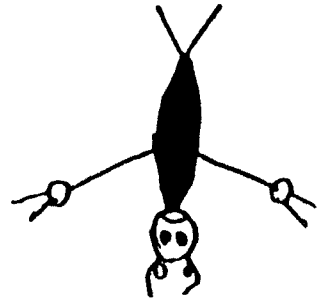
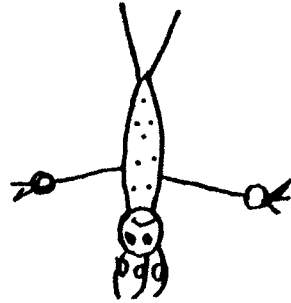
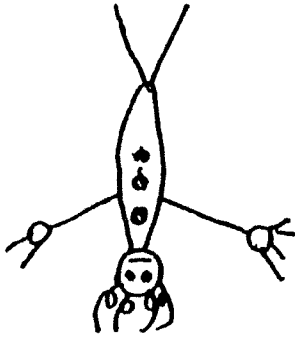
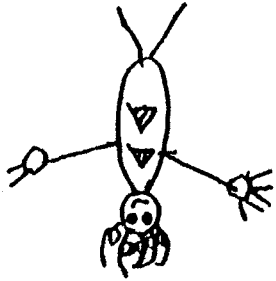
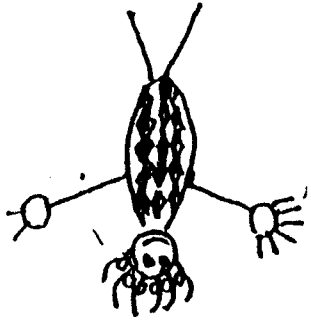
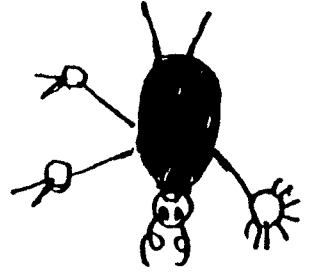
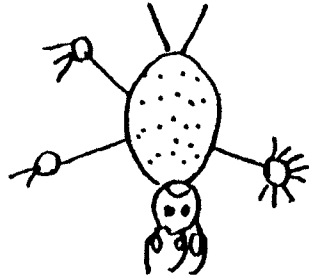
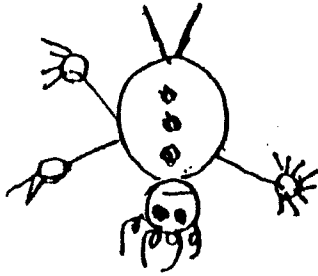
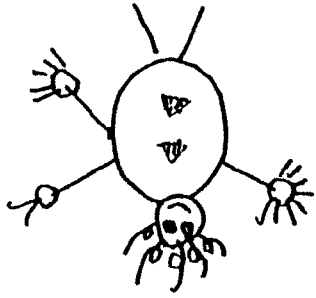
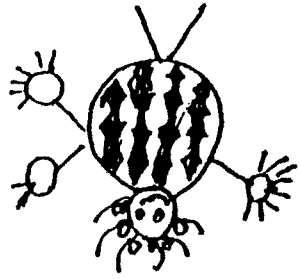
**STANDARDS:**

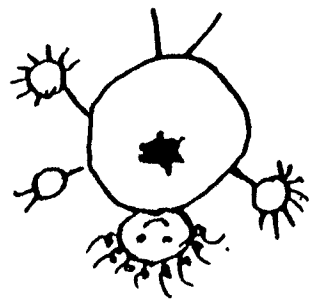
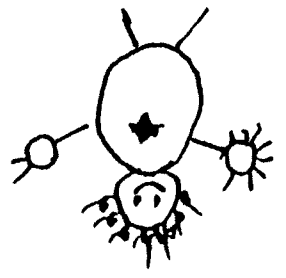
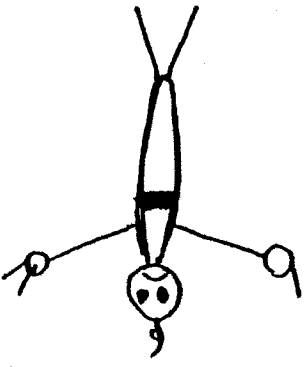
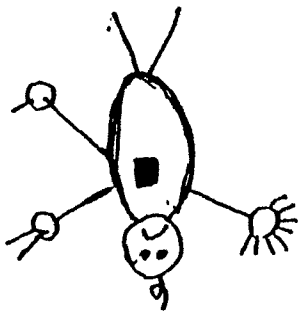
**BSL:** 1.1, 1.3, 1.6, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 11.3, 12.1, 12.3, 12.8

**NCTM:** 3b, 3c, 4d, 13a

**SCS:** A1, A2, B1, D1, H1, H5

Sobol, David J. Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Treasure Hunt.  
Bantam Books, c1988, ISBN#0-55a-15650-0-275.





? MR. X ?

