

Strategies* – Metaphors

Metaphors

- are a way of comparing one concept or topic to another.

Students are provided with a concept – through an image, text, sound – any of the senses. Students may select an initial concept of their choice, e.g. from posters or charts in various areas of the classroom. Students are asked how this concept is like another – usually one that is well known to them. e.g., How is (an image on a poster) like 'an ecosystem'? Students brainstorm the ways the concepts are similar and the ways they are different.

Since the brain is constantly searching for connections and patterns, metaphors are a powerful way to introduce or reinforce new learning.

- * Category of Instructional Strategy - Questions, Cues and Advance Organizers. Strategies may relate to more than one instructional strategy category.
- * Marzano, R., Pickering, D., & Pollock, J. (2001) *Classroom Instruction that Works: Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement*. Alexandria, Virginia: ASCD.