Using a Quality Matrix
with Primary Connections

Introduction

A quality matrix is a tool that supports development of high quality science literacy representations and guides the feedback process.

Use a quality matrix for any representation you invite students to create such as a graph, table, labelled drawing or other.

- Use a quality matrix to review student representations using self and peer assessment, and guide feedback by identifying "Where to next?"
- Co-create a quality matrix to engage students in discussion of what constitutes a high quality representation.

Research shows clarity and feedback mechanisms have significant impact on student learning (Hattie, 2018). Feedback supports students to identify what progress looks like, and what they can try next. Using feedback, students and teachers can progress to close gaps between current and desired learning.

Gathering data

A quality matrix is a powerful tool. It identifies learning expectations, documents student achievement and provides a scaffold to provide feedback specific to the task.
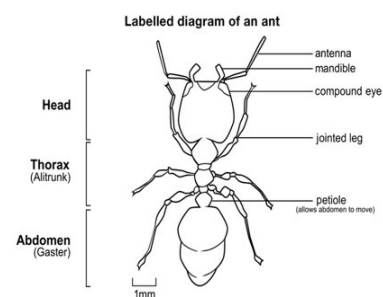
Supporting learning

A quality matrix may be adjusted to suit individual student needs. For example, in a labelled diagram, scale may be shown using photographs of familiar objects or graduated to more formal measurement, and scaffold literacy by providing labels as appropriate.

An early primary representation

A middle primary representation

An upper primary representation

Refer to the Australian Curriculum Literacy and Numeracy Progressions to inform planning.

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In practice

- Consider completing the first and second columns as a whole class to come to an agreement about the features of a high-quality representation.
- Differentiate by supporting small groups of students or individual students an opportunity to complete a quality matrix that is targeted at their learning needs.
- Complete the third column with individual students during formative assessment conversations, or use it to record observations of student's work.

Representation: *Bar graph*

Features	Characteristics of a high-quality bar graph	Opportunity for improvement
Title	Clear and accurate	*Write in a straight line* *Check spelling*
Horizontal axis	Straight line Clear label Regular increments Units of measurement	*Write label clearly* *Measure the increment spaces*
Vertical axis	Straight line Clear label Regular increments Units of measurement	
Bars	All the same width Same space apart from each other	

Representation: _____

Features	Characteristics of a high-quality _____	Opportunity for improvement