

# Dewey Decimal System Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM

IN 1876, an American librarian and educator named Melvil Dewey invented a decimal system for classifying and cataloging books. The Dewey Decimal System has undergone twenty-two major changes since its invention. This system is used in libraries all around the world.

The main categories of the system are:

- 000 – 099 computers; information, and general reference
- 100 – 199 philosophy and psychology
- 200 – 299 religion and mythology
- 300 – 399 social science
- 400 – 499 language
- 500 – 599 science and mathematics
- 600 – 699 technology
- 700 – 799 arts and recreation
- 800 – 899 literature
- 900 – 999 geography and history



Can you put all the books in the right place? Use the Dewey Decimal System to answer the questions below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ In what number range will you find a book on Australia?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ In what range will you find out about how computers work?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ If you had to do a report on the Greek god Zeus, where would you look?
4. \_\_\_\_\_ What will you find in the section between 800 – 899?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The *New York Times* is located where in the library?
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Go here and you can find the latest techniques in tennis and soccer.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Books on how to improve your self-esteem are here.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ In this section, you may find works by Mark Twain and Emily Bronte.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Go here to learn German.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ What will you find in the section of 000 – 099?
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Robots are big news in this section.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ "The First Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals" would be found in this section.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ You may find a book about the government in this section.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Margaret Thatcher and Bill Clinton's life stories would be found in this section.

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**Dewey Decimal System Worksheet** is an essential educational tool designed to help students and library patrons understand the organization of books in libraries. The Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system, developed by Melvil Dewey in 1876, categorizes knowledge into ten main classes, making it easier for users to locate and retrieve information. This worksheet can serve as a guide to the fundamental concepts of the Dewey Decimal System, its significance, and practical exercises to enhance understanding.

## Understanding the Dewey Decimal System

The Dewey Decimal System is a library classification system used primarily in the United States and many other countries around the world. It employs a three-digit numbering system to categorize books and resources into specific disciplines. Each class is further divided into subclasses, allowing for a detailed and organized structure.

## History of the Dewey Decimal System

- Creation: Developed by Melvil Dewey, a librarian and educator, in 1876.

- Purpose: Designed to organize library collections and facilitate access to information.
- Evolution: The system has undergone various revisions to adapt to new fields of knowledge and changes in technology.

## **Structure of the Dewey Decimal System**

The DDC is divided into ten main classes, which are represented by the numbers 000 to 999. Each class is further subdivided into more specific categories. Below is a breakdown of the main classes:

1. 000 - Generalities: Includes works on computer science, information, and general reference.
2. 100 - Philosophy and Psychology: Covers philosophical texts, ethics, and psychological studies.
3. 200 - Religion: Encompasses various religions, spirituality, and religious texts.
4. 300 - Social Sciences: Deals with sociology, economics, political science, and law.
5. 400 - Language: Focuses on linguistics, language learning, and specific languages.
6. 500 - Science: Covers mathematics, astronomy, biology, and other scientific disciplines.
7. 600 - Technology: Encompasses medicine, engineering, home economics, and applied sciences.
8. 700 - Arts: Includes literature, music, visual arts, and recreation.
9. 800 - Literature: Focuses on poetry, drama, and specific national literatures.
10. 900 - History and Geography: Covers history, geography, and related disciplines.

## **Creating a Dewey Decimal System Worksheet**

A Dewey Decimal System worksheet can be an effective way to teach and reinforce concepts related to this classification system. Below are steps and components to include when creating a worksheet.

### **Components of the Worksheet**

1. Introduction Section:
  - Briefly explain the importance of the Dewey Decimal System.
  - Provide context on how it helps in locating books.
2. Classification Exercises:
  - Create a list of topics or titles and ask students to assign appropriate Dewey Decimal numbers.
  - Include a mix of fiction and non-fiction examples.
3. Matching Activity:
  - List Dewey Decimal classes on one side and subjects on the other, asking students to match them correctly.
4. Short Answer Questions:

- Pose questions like:
- What is the purpose of the Dewey Decimal System?
- Who created the system, and when?
- What are the main classes of the system?

#### 5. Practical Application:

- Include a section for students to find specific books in the library using the Dewey Decimal System.
- Ask them to note the Dewey number and the subject matter.

## **Sample Exercises for the Worksheet**

Here are some examples of exercises that can be included:

### Exercise 1: Classifying Titles

Assign the following titles to their appropriate Dewey Decimal numbers:

- "Understanding Psychology"
- "The History of Ancient Egypt"
- "Cooking for Beginners"
- "The Great Gatsby"
- "Astronomy: A Beginner's Guide"

### Exercise 2: Matching

Match the following Dewey Decimal classes with their descriptions:

- 300
- 600
- 800
- 200

- a. Literature
- b. Social Sciences
- c. Religion
- d. Technology

### Exercise 3: Short Answer

1. What is the Dewey Decimal number for books about mathematics?
2. Name one benefit of using the Dewey Decimal System in libraries.

## **The Importance of the Dewey Decimal System in Education**

Understanding the Dewey Decimal System is crucial for students, educators, and library staff. Here are several reasons why it is important:

### **Facilitates Research**

Students often need to conduct research for projects and assignments. The DDC

helps them locate relevant materials quickly and efficiently.

## **Encourages Independent Learning**

By familiarizing themselves with the Dewey Decimal System, students can independently navigate the library and explore subjects of interest without relying solely on librarians.

## **Enhances Information Literacy**

In today's information-rich world, being able to locate and identify credible sources is vital. The DDC provides a structured approach to information retrieval, enhancing students' information literacy skills.

## **Implementing the Worksheet in the Classroom**

To effectively implement a Dewey Decimal System worksheet in the classroom, consider the following strategies:

### **Interactive Learning**

- **Group Activities:** Organize students into small groups to collaborate on exercises, fostering teamwork and discussion.
- **Library Scavenger Hunt:** Create a scavenger hunt where students use the DDC to find specific books in the library.

### **Assessment and Feedback**

- After completing the worksheet, provide feedback to students on their understanding of the system.
- Use quizzes or verbal assessments to gauge their grasp of the material.

### **Integrating Technology**

- Use online resources and library databases to demonstrate how the Dewey Decimal System applies in digital formats.
- Encourage students to utilize library catalogs and search tools that employ the DDC.

## **Conclusion**

The Dewey Decimal System Worksheet is a valuable resource for educators aiming to teach students about the organization of knowledge in libraries. By engaging with this system, students can develop essential research and

information literacy skills that will serve them throughout their academic careers and beyond. With its structured approach to categorizing information, the Dewey Decimal System remains relevant in an increasingly digital world, and worksheets can play a pivotal role in its effective teaching and learning.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is a Dewey Decimal System worksheet used for?**

A Dewey Decimal System worksheet is used to help students learn how to categorize and organize books using the Dewey Decimal classification system, which assigns numbers to subjects for easy retrieval.

### **What age group is best suited for using a Dewey Decimal System worksheet?**

Dewey Decimal System worksheets are typically designed for elementary to middle school students, as they are learning about library organization and research skills.

### **What key components should be included in a Dewey Decimal System worksheet?**

A good Dewey Decimal System worksheet should include sections for identifying book subjects, matching books to their Dewey Decimal numbers, and exercises that reinforce understanding of the classification system.

### **How can teachers effectively use a Dewey Decimal System worksheet in the classroom?**

Teachers can use a Dewey Decimal System worksheet as a hands-on activity during library lessons, allowing students to practice categorizing books and enhancing their research skills through group activities or independent work.

### **Are there digital versions of Dewey Decimal System worksheets available?**

Yes, many educational websites offer downloadable and interactive digital versions of Dewey Decimal System worksheets, which can be used in virtual classrooms or for remote learning.

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Install the chrome extension (icon to top right) - and now, the shortcut becomes -> rewq ...

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