

Pictures Aren't Just for Beginners

Use visuals to interpret complex relationships.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Select a visual that makes a demanding relationship clearer and requires interpretation.

Teach it in four steps

1. Give quiet looking time without explaining the whole visual.
2. Ask learners to identify evidence they can point to.
3. Introduce precise language for the relationship.
4. Require an interpretation and discuss what the visual cannot establish.

Worked classroom example

Humanities: a migration map shows direction and scale, but does not by itself explain why each person moved.

Teacher prompt: "Which detail supports your explanation? Show me how you know."

Check understanding

Ask learners to separate a visible pattern from an inferred cause.

Fade the support

Remove guiding questions and let learners frame their own evidence-based interpretation.

Adapt it across subjects

Science: interpret an energy-transfer diagram.

Maths: use multiple graph representations to compare relationships.

Adjust the language support

A1-A2 access: keep the subject goal; use visuals, a small word bank, pointing or drawing and partner rehearsal. Use a home language to establish meaning where helpful.

B1-B2 extension: ask for fuller explanations, precise subject vocabulary and qualifications. Reduce sentence openings when learners can organise the response independently.

These are starting points, not placement rules. Judge support from the learner's response to this task; proficiency can differ across skills.