Word Storm

Word Storm is an activity that combines the use of vocabulary words in context with the students' speculation about their functional application. Students work in pairs or groups and teach each other the vocabulary.

Rationale
There is a high degree of participation and dialogue. Vocabulary research affirms that students learn words better and more deeply if given fewer words more frequently.

Instructional Procedures

1. The teacher selects unit or theme vocabulary words being introduced.
2. The teacher records the words on the Word Storm data sheet.
3. Distribute Word Storm data sheets with vocabulary and page numbers on it. Each student receives one word and they work with partners to discover each of their words.
4. Monitor and assist students engaged in the information search on the word.
5. Facilitate the “reporting out” aspects of the vocabulary activity. All students who have the word________ can report out. The teacher then paraphrases the information for the other students to learn and record on their lists of all of the words.

Helpful Hints
Students might work together one day and then report their responses to the class on successive days.

Be sure to choose words and find page numbers prior to the lesson.

Relevant Standards

K-2
Vocabulary & Concept Development
1.2 Use word origins to determine the meaning of unknown words.
1.1 Understand and explain frequently used synonyms, antonyms, and homographs.
1.2 Know abstract derived roots and affixes from Greek and Latin and use this knowledge to analyze the meaning of complex words.

Reading Comprehension
2.5 Compare contrast information on the same topic after reading several passages or articles.

3-5
Vocabulary & Concept Development
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Reading Comprehension

2.4 Draw inferences, conclusion, or generalizations about text and support them with textual evidence and prior knowledge.

Further Resources


6-8 Vocabulary & Concept Development

1.2 Use knowledge of Greek, Latin and Anglo-Saxon roots and affixes to understand content-area vocabulary.
1.3 Recognize the origins and meanings of frequently used foreign words in English and use these words accurately in speaking and writing.
1.5 Monitor expository text for unknown words or words with novel meanings by using word, sentence, and paragraph clues.
1.3 Use word meaning within the appropriate context and show ability to verify those meanings by definition, restatement, example, comparison or contrast.
1.6 Understand and explain “shades of meaning” in related words.