

Vocabulary Strategies

Appendix D

GRADE

6

Vocabulary

Vocabulary development is integrated within each learning experience, introducing or reinforcing understanding of specific words and concepts within the context of the learning experiences and the cluster. A variety of vocabulary strategies may be used to assist students in activating, acquiring, and applying the appropriate vocabulary. Strategies may be modified to suit different grades.

Activate

- Using a word processor, students type new vocabulary in a word bank. Students may change the colour and/or font of the words they recognize and explain the meaning to each other, or highlight related words and explain their relationship to each other.
- Students come to class dressed in a costume that represents a new vocabulary word or dramatizes the meaning of new vocabulary. Students guess the meaning of the word/concept that is illustrated.
- Cooperative groups of students are provided with three vocabulary words. Students discuss each word and agree upon a meaning for each. A reporter from each group reads the definitions aloud. Students suggest the matching vocabulary word, and provide a reason for their choice.

Acquire

- Using print and electronic resources, students research vocabulary and, using a word processor, create a three-column chart. Students insert the vocabulary word in the first column and either a definition, synonyms/antonyms, image representing the word, or use the word in a sentence in the other two columns.
- Using Hot Potatoes, students create a crossword puzzle, a cloze passage, a multiple choice quiz, or a matching quiz using vocabulary. Students exchange quizzes with each other and solve.
- Introduce new vocabulary as “word of the day.” Students write the word, identify its root word, prefix, suffix, synonyms, antonyms, illustrate the word, and use it in a sentence.
- Using a word processor, students type new vocabulary into a word bank. Individually or in collaborative groups, students create a picture dictionary, inserting digital images or clip art representing the new vocabulary. Alternately, they create a talking dictionary, recording and inserting sound clips explaining the word, or using it correctly in a sentence.
- Using graphics software, students create mini-posters that include the vocabulary word, an illustration, and/or a definition. Print and display mini-posters, or set as desktop wallpaper.
- Using Inspiration vocabulary templates, students identify antonyms, synonyms, and/or people associated with new vocabulary.

- Students use “Pocket Definitions” to reinforce new vocabulary. Students write new vocabulary on slips of paper and put them in their pockets. Several times throughout the day, call out “Pocket Definitions!” Students take the slips of paper out of their pockets and practise the words and definitions.
- Using a word processor, word art, or concept mapping, students create a word splash of new vocabulary. Students add definitions, explanations, or illustrations of the vocabulary. TIP: Students may add further information by inserting text boxes, comments, or sound clips.
- Student’s use self-stick notes to label items displayed in an artifact centre (e.g., Red River Cart, kayak, map projection, longbow...). Students add and label additional items related to new vocabulary.
- Students create desktop vocabulary placemats or bumper stickers. Students illustrate their placemats/bumper stickers with new vocabulary, definitions, and pictures representing the new vocabulary. Students may refer to their placemats throughout the cluster.
- Students match new vocabulary to magazine pictures or clip art illustrating the new word.
- Students practise new vocabulary using flash cards.
TIP: Have students create a personal set of flash cards.
- List vocabulary words from a piece of text the students will be reading. Students use the words to compose a short story. Students share their stories and compare them with the original text.
- Using a word processor, students create a clip-art collage of images representing new vocabulary. Students record a sound clip of the vocabulary word and insert it next to the related image. Students predict the vocabulary word each image represents, and check their answer by playing the sound clip.
- Students contribute to the development of a Word Wall that contains key words related to a current topic of study. Students record words and definitions they contributed in personal dictionaries.
- Students complete a Word Cycle think sheet related to new vocabulary. Given vocabulary terms, students arrange the words and indicate the relationships among them. Using a Think-Pair-Share strategy, students identify the relationship between all adjoining words and justify their choices.
TIP: For more information on Word Cycle, see *Success for All Learners*, pp. 6.31-6.32 or “Strategies That Make a Difference”, p. 216. For a Word Cycle blackline master, see *Success for All Learners*, p. 6.99. For more information on Think-Pair-Share/Think-Pair-Square, see “Strategies That Make a Difference”, p. 15.

Vocabulary

- Students sort and predict vocabulary terms. Working in partners or small groups, students categorize and predict the meaning of a bank of words. Reporters from each group share the categories with the class. Students compare the categories from each group and discuss word placements. Students use a concept map to show understanding and connections between categories.
- Using concept mapping, students create a Word Explosion, choosing a root word and developing new words by adding prefixes and suffixes to develop new vocabulary. Students create posters of their Word Explosion activities and display them in the classroom. Students create and add new words to the posters as they are encountered.

Apply

- Students complete a concept frame or organizer to illustrate their understanding of vocabulary.
- Provide students with a vocabulary word and a definition for a different vocabulary word. One student reads her or his word and the student with the corresponding definition reads it and then reads out his or her word. Students continue until all the words and definitions are matched.
- Provide some students with a vocabulary words and others with definitions. Students match the word with the correct definition in the least amount of time.
- Cooperative groups of students are provided three vocabulary words. Students research the definitions and record them in their own words. Students create three additional incorrect definitions. The group reporter reads all four definitions to the class and students guess the correct meaning from the four definitions.
- Students compose and perform a song demonstrating the meaning of vocabulary words.
- Students perform role-play vignettes, use mime, or create tableaus to illustrate the meaning of new vocabulary. Students guess the words.
- Using graphics software, students create a paneled comic strip that incorporates vocabulary. Students include speech bubbles and/or text demonstrating the meaning of vocabulary words with each panel.
- Using a word processor, students play “Vocabulary Bingo.” Students enter new vocabulary to fill the bingo squares. The teacher provides a definition, explanation, synonym, antonym, or cloze sentence for vocabulary words. Students match words on their bingo card to the given clue, highlighting the word or changing the font or colour. The first student to fill in the card or a designated row or column calls “Bingo!”
TIP: In classrooms with one computer, students may create individual bingo cards and print them.

- Using word-processing or graphics software, students create word graphics that represent the meaning of new vocabulary words. Students share word graphics in an electronic Gallery Walk.
- Collaborative groups of students create “The Answer is...” puzzles using new vocabulary and quiz each other, (e.g., “The answer is “title, legend, compass rose, scale, latitude, longitude” What is the question?” – The question is “What are the elements of a map?”).
- Students play new vocabulary “Password.” Four students are divided into two teams of two. One student on each team is given a “secret” vocabulary word on a slip of paper. Taking turns, the first team member provides a one-word clue to her or his partner, who attempts to guess the “secret” word. The second team member provides an additional clue to his or her partner. Students continue until the vocabulary word is guessed.
- Students compose poems (e.g., Cinquain, Haiku...) to illustrate the meaning of new vocabulary.
- Students play “Vocabulary Beach Ball.” Label a beach ball with vocabulary words. Students sit in a circle and toss the beach ball to each other. The student who catches the ball reads the word closest to his or her right thumb, defines the word, and/or uses it in a sentence. The student then tosses the ball to another student.
- Using presentation or web authoring software, students create a web page or interactive glossary of new vocabulary. The presentation may include links to definitions, labelled diagrams, pictures, phrases, or sentences using the word in context, sound clips associated with the word, or digital pictures of classroom explorations with the concept represented by the word.
TIP: The presentation may be developed throughout the cluster and used as a culminating activity.
- Reinforce understanding of new vocabulary with exit or permission slips, (e.g., students must respond with the correct vocabulary word when given a definition in order to leave for recess.)
TIP: Show students a picture illustrating the vocabulary word or provide the word and have students respond with its meaning.
- Students play “Spelling in Motion” to practise new vocabulary. Taking turns, one student calls out a new vocabulary word, then spells the word out loud, repeats the word, and finally states an action word. Students perform the action, spelling the word aloud. (e.g., One student says, “Citizen, c-i-t-i-z-e-n, Citizen, jumping jacks.” Other students do jumping jacks as they spell the word, performing one jumping jack for each letter as they spell the word.)
TIP: Students may do the activity in pairs. Other actions may include hand clapping, finger snapping, shaping the letters with their bodies...

Vocabulary

- Using presentation software, students create a rapid-fire class quiz. Collaborative groups of students create a three-part slide that includes an illustration or clip-art image representing the word, a definition, and the vocabulary word. Students set the timing feature so the illustration appears first, followed in three seconds by the definition, and followed five seconds later by the word. Each group's slide is included in a class presentation. During the presentation, students are encouraged to call out their guesses before the word appears.
- Using animation software or animation features of presentation software, students create an animation illustrating the meaning of cluster vocabulary.
- Using presentation software, students create an interactive four-slide riddle for new vocabulary words. Students create three clues for each new vocabulary word, entering one clue for each of the first three slides. The fourth slide contains the vocabulary word that answers the riddle. Students share their riddles with other students who use the clues to guess the vocabulary word.

