

LIST-GROUP-LABEL VOCABULARY STRATEGY

You can use this activity to develop vocabulary within the context of any unit of study – characters in a story, organisms, study of a country or period in history, etc.

- Ask the whole class to develop a list of about 25 words that are important to the content being taught.
- In small groups, students form clusters of words that have something in common. Guidelines for the work:
 - ☞ At least 3 words per category
 - ☞ Words can be used more than once
 - ☞ Words can be added beyond the original 25
- Still in their groups, students create their own label for each category their group has established. Examples:
 - ☞ For a story: qualities of a character, actions, descriptions of setting
 - ☞ For studying organisms: locomotion, respiration, reproduction
- Groups share their categories with rest of class.
- Extension activities to insure that the words get used, enter students' active vocabulary, and connect with various contexts:
 - ☞ Kids write word groups with their category labels on chart paper, post around the room, and refer to them during discussions and other activities in the unit.
 - ☞ Continue to add words to the list as the unit progresses.
 - ☞ Have students look for the words as they do further reading and discuss how they are used in the same or different ways.
 - ☞ Once the activities have been conducted and the words used repeatedly in reading and writing, students can be held accountable in meaningful ways.

Developed by National-Louis University, Center for City Schools, Chicago Campus