



# Social Studies Strategies: Retelling

**What:**

*Retelling* is a strategy that helps students become engaged in information processing of text.

**Why:**

Through the process of retelling, students internalize the concepts, structures, and conventions encountered in the text.

**How:**

Provide students with a text, if they are intended to read and retell.

*Activate Prior Knowledge:* Solicit key words students will encounter by asking them what words they expect to see in the text.

*Set Purpose:* Ask students what they think they are going to learn.

**Read:**

- Tell students to put down their pens/pencils and read along as the teacher reads aloud the first paragraph of the text.
- Stop at the end of the first paragraph and tell the students to turn over the text or close the book. Instruct them to write anything that they can remember.
- Instruct the students to return to the text and again read along as the teacher reads aloud. Extend the amount of text the teacher reads before stopping for a second time, making certain that the teacher does not stop at the end of a paragraph. Have the students turn over or close the text and write anything they can remember.
- Report the process for a third time, extending the amount of text read once again.

*Summing It Up:* Direct the students to retell all they wrote from the three read/retell segments. See *Summing It Up* strategy for more information.

**When:**

Use the *Retelling* strategy early in the school year and often afterward whenever students will be asked to process unfamiliar and/or challenging text.