

Word Wall Strategies

The following suggestions will help teachers create word wall for social studies terms:

- § Select words whose meaning/use has already been taught.
- § Add no more than five words per week.
- § Include words that have connections.
- § Select words which will help students understand social studies concepts being stressed.
- § Add illustrations if necessary.
- § Always place new words in the same location so students can easily locate them.
- § Move “old” words to a place in the classroom where they are still accessible to students.
- § Encourage the use of the words in both discussions and assignments.

Word Wall

A word wall is a display of vocabulary/concept words whose meaning/use has already been taught.

Word walls provide students with an accessible dictionary for troublesome or new words.

A word wall should include only words which have been formally introduced into the students' vocabulary.

Use a word wall of key vocabulary words and social studies concepts that students must know in the subject.

Word Wall Activities

The following word wall activities can be done as sponge activities at beginning or ending of a period (first or last five minutes) or at other appropriate times.

- § Be a Mind Reader C Teacher thinks of a word and the wall and gives 3-5 clues to the word.
- § Word Sorts C Students group the words depending on criteria suggested by the teacher.
- § Word Wall Cousins C Students explore the connections or relationships between some of the words.
- § Word Wall Quiz C Give a quiz of 5 or 10 words on the wall where the teacher reads the definition and the students write the correct word.

