

Five Fab Literacy and Vocab Games/Activities

Reading is the best way to learn new vocabulary. It exposes students to rich words that are used to tell stories or to communicate a point of view. Another way to learn vocabulary is through interactive and fun learning. The activities below allow students to experience new words through hands on learning such as games and interaction. Let's get started!

Vocab Fun 1

Materials needed for Vocab Fun 1 are:

1. Flip chart paper or craft paper
2. Pencils
3. Crayons/Markers/Colored Pencils
4. Construction paper
5. Glue
6. Scissors
7. Art supplies on hand in class



Activity 1 – Word Bubble

1. Divide students into groups of 3 or 4
2. Give each team one word above their grade level (also write it on the board).
 - a. Give sixth grade students eighth grade words such as: enhance, feasible, embark, plausible, and memoir.
 - b. Conduct an Internet search for words on a certain grade level.
3. Have each team guess what they think the word means and write it on paper.
4. Have each team tell the class their word and their guess for the definition.
 - a. This should be a fun activity!
5. Now give each team the correct definition for the word from a dictionary.
6. Have each team create a Word Bubble by giving them a big piece of paper such as flipchart or craft paper.
7. The students will create a Word Bubble by...
 - a. Cutting the paper in a circular shape.
 - b. Students should use the definition to create other phrases or synonyms related to the word...

- i. For example, Group 1 has the word, enhance.
 - ii. They guess that enhance means to hold hands.
 - iii. You tell them the definition is to build up, strengthen, or to improve something.
 - iv. They will fill the bubble by writing similar phrases and words on the paper for enhance: to make better, to upgrade, to liven up, to make popular, to boost
8. Let your students use slang.
 - a. Remember they are making sense of this word in their heads.
 - b. If you don't know what their slang means, PLEASE ASK.
9. After each group has completed their bubble, have them present their word, definition, and Word Bubble to the class.

Activity 2 – Word Bubble POP!



1. Tell the students they will play a game called Word Bubble POP!
2. The instructor will gather more words above the students' grade level.
3. Have students play in the same groups from Activity 1.
4. Give each group a big piece of paper.
5. Have the students cut the paper in small to medium size circles.
6. The instructor will write a word on the board and its definition.
7. The instructor will then say to the students, "GO!"
8. Give each team two minutes to write as many phrases and synonyms related to the word on one of the circles.
 - a. Students can use the front and back of the circle to write phrases and synonyms.
9. After two minutes, the instructor will say TIME!
10. Have students count the number of phrases and synonyms they wrote for their word.
 - a. A phrase such as: "to build up" should count as one.
11. The team with the most correct phrases and synonyms should read what they wrote aloud.
 - a. If Team 1 wrote down 8 phrases and synonyms, then they initially gain 8 points.

12. If the instructor doesn't believe a phrase or synonym relates to a word, they can take away a point.
13. This is round 1.
14. The instructor can start another round by presenting a new word and its definition.
15. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.