



My City School

Social Studies - Ancient China Unit - Communication In Isolation Activity

Visual Vocab

Visual Vocab is a tool used to introduce new terms to students at the start of a unit. It includes the term, definition, and a visual image that is a real-life representation of the word. The image is the anchor of this new word or the piece that brings the new term to meaning for the students.

How to use Visual Vocab: Cut all pieces of the visual vocab list so that the term is separate from the definition, which is also separate from the picture. Mix all the pieces together so everything is jumbled up. Then, try to match the pieces back together. Allow for trial and error and discussion as to why they chose a particular picture for that word. Ask prompts such as, *“What is the picture showing?” “Does it match what the definition is saying?” “Can it fit another definition better?”* Then, once the student is finished arranging, go through, and discuss each term, definition, and image.

Videos

Videos are a helpful tool to acquire background knowledge for the student. Having the child watch the video before introducing the corresponding lesson helps to prep their brain for the lesson and topic. This background knowledge can allow for a deeper understanding of the content.

How to use Videos: After discussing new terms in the Visual Vocab, watch the video once all the way through. Then, rewatch the video, pausing to converse on new concepts introduced, and what the child is taking away, or understanding.

Images:

How to use Ancient China Map: After introducing the topic of Ancient China with the Visual Vocab and geography video, show a map of Ancient China to the student. Ask the student what is noticed in the picture. Allow for their thoughts to be spoken freely. Once they are finished, ask more prompting questions about the geography that they may have glanced over, such as *“Do you see any mountains, deserts, or oceans in the map?” “Do you think it was easy to get across these features” “How do you think these features affected communication outside of China?”*

Materials

Use Homemade Map handout to help aid in building a map for your communication game.

Benefits of Creating a Map

By creating a map of your house or play area, and labeling it, you are helping your child build Executive Functioning skills. Specifically, making a map focuses on flexible thinking, planning and prioritizing, organization, memory while learning specific skills such as orientation and cardinal directions (N, S, E, W).

Play it! - Have fun trying to get the message to the destination as quickly as possible.