

Social Studies Whole-Class Instructional Strategy:

Word Wall Displays

The Basics

What? A display of vocabulary words that students can reference.

When? At the beginning of a new unit or topic, or as new words are introduced in texts.

Why? Provides support for learning new vocabulary and creates a record of new words that students can refer to when reading and writing.

How to Implement

1. Select an area of the classroom that is visible to all and large enough to display words.
2. Before reading a text, select words from the text that will be the focus of vocabulary instruction and write them on the display.
3. Introduce and teach the words, engaging students in a discussion of the word meanings.
4. After reading the text, ask students to contribute additional words from the text that the teacher did not select.
5. Use the wall interactively throughout the year. Encourage students to use words from the display in their writing and speaking, and to continue suggesting additions to the display.

Resources and Additional Information

- [Research](#) supporting Word Wall Displays
- Additional [Research](#) supporting Word Wall Displays
- [Video Model](#) of this strategy
- Example topics in [Bayou Bridges: A Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#), in which the Word Wall Displays strategy would be helpful:
 - **Grades 3-5:** Artifact Study: Çatalhöyük (Turkey) (BB G4 U1, LSSSS 4.2, 4.2.a, 4.2.b, 4.6, 4.11), Meet the Inca (BB G5 U1, LSSSS 5.2, 5.2.a, 5.3.c, 5.13)
 - **Grades 6-8:** Early Spanish Exploration and Settlement (BB G6 U1, LSSSS 6.4, 6.5, 6.8), Iraq and Afghanistan (BB G8 U7, LSSSS 8.6, 8.6.a, 8.17, 8.17.a, 8.17.b)