

Interactive Word Wall Activities

Quick Definitions- Provide a definition (orally and/or written on the board) of one of the word wall words. Students choose and write the word to match the definition. Repeat the process encouraging students to review all the words as they select the answer.

Word Pictures- select one of the words from the word wall and illustrate it on the board or on chart paper. Students guess what the word is. (variation- Students do this such as Pictionary in teams.)

Word Relationships- Each student shares the word on their word card with a partner, and together, they decide on a way that their two words are related or have something in common. A time limit could be imposed after which students rotate to a new partner and repeat the process. After doing this a few times, the pair could join with another pair, and see if they can find a relationship between the four words. Discussing similarities and differences helps students to master new vocabulary meanings.

Categories- Students create categories and group the words from the word wall to fit those categories. Set the number of words that are allowed in a “miscellaneous” category and create a maximum and minimum number of categories that can be used. This activity could be done individually first; then students share and compare their categories with a partner. They share their groups of words with the class who guess the principle behind the sorting.

Prefixes and Suffixes- Each small group is given a set of the suffix and prefix cards and decides to which words on the word wall they can add them. As a variation, assign each group a set of words from the word wall for which they must decide the appropriate suffixes and prefixes.