

0301.4.3 Use Reference Materials (e.g. Atlas, Encyclopedia, Dictionary, and Thesaurus)

Activity:

1. The teacher will introduce reference materials to students by using the Reference Material PowerPoint.
2. Then the teacher will do a group activity with students.
3. Split students up into groups of four.
4. Each student will be an expert for their given reference material.
5. So in a group of four there will be an expert for a thesaurus, encyclopedia, dictionary, and atlas.
6. Students will be given scenarios and they must figure out which reference material they should use to find this information.
7. So for example, they pull out a scenario that says, when reading the story Thunder Cake I came across I word I did not know. Where can I find the definition to this word? Which expert should I ask in your group?
8. Then the students will work together to find out which reference material they should use to find this information.
9. The student who is the expert and has the reference material needed to answer the question in the scenario will keep that scenario strip of paper.
10. Each expert will be given a piece of white paper to paste the strip onto and write the reference material needed to find the information.
11. The teacher will collect each groups work at the end of the activity.
12. This will give the teacher an idea of what reference material we need to spend more time on or if students are ready to move on.

Paper Strips
Scenarios
For Reference Material
Group Activity

1. You would like to travel to Washington D.C. How can you find out where this place is located?
2. You are working on a story about amusement parks. You have used exciting over and over again. Where can you find a synonym for exciting?
3. Your class is doing research papers on someone who has made an impact on our country's history. Where can you find information about the person you chose for this report?
4. You are reading a chapter in your social studies book and you find a word you do not know. How can you find the definition to the word?
5. This week's spelling words are hard for you to understand. You have already written the definition to the words. You believe that by finding synonyms and antonyms for the words might give you a better understanding of the definition. Where can you find synonyms and antonyms for a word?
6. Tomorrow your class is going to be learning about the inventors. Your teacher mentioned that Benjamin Franklin invented bifocals. How could you find more information about Benjamin Franklin?
7. Your family is planning on taking a trip to the Florida Keys. You would like to see how far it would be from Tennessee to the Florida Keys. What reference material would you use to look at the distance?
8. You are learning about landforms and would like to find out what an island is. Where would you look for the definition of an island?

9. You are trying to find out how far it is from your house to your favorite park. Where would you look for this information?
10. Your teacher has assigned each person a continent to research. Where would you find information about your continent?
11. You are participating in the spelling bee at your school. The teacher says a word you do not know. When you ask her to give you the definition where might the teacher get this information?
12. You are working on mountain language. One of the questions asks you the opposite of a word. You do not know the opposite of the word. Where can you find the antonym for this word?

Answers

1. Atlas
2. Thesaurus
3. Encyclopedia
4. Dictionary
5. Thesaurus
6. Encyclopedia
7. Atlas
8. Dictionary
9. Atlas
10. Encyclopedia
11. Dictionary
12. Thesaurus