

VOCAB TRACKING

Purpose

BHP provides a glossary of words that students need to know to be able to engage productively with the course. However, students will often encounter words in this course that are unfamiliar to them and aren't part of the course glossary. This repeated activity will help students become familiar with a process for how to independently figure out the meaning of new words.

Process

Throughout the course, your students will encounter new and unfamiliar words. Some of these words will be addressed as part of the whole class vocabulary activities; however, many more of them will be unfamiliar only to some students. It's difficult to meet all students' vocab needs in any course; therefore, we suggest making sure your students have the necessary skills in place to learn new vocab on their own.

Hand out the Vocab Tracker to your students and walk them through the process of writing down a word they don't know; looking for the definition, synonyms, and antonyms; and then writing a sentence that includes the word. You might have students look up the words in classroom reference books or online – it's up to you, and depends upon what works best in your classroom. You might also decide to alter the worksheet to fit your needs – perhaps a translation column for ELL students, or a draw-a-picture column for students who like visual clues.

We recommend you ask students to add unfamiliar words to this tracker during the Three Close Reads process, while watching videos, or during any other classroom activity. Some teachers have their students gather a set number of words per week; others ask students to look up a new word daily; and yet others ask for them for each reading. How you want to structure that is up to you. However, we recommend you establish a routine and stick as closely to it as possible.

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Purpose

As you know, there is a glossary of words in the Big History course that all students need to know to be able to take part in the course. However, you're not all students, and there are a lot of words in the course, so it's highly likely you're going to come across a bunch of words you don't know that are not in the glossary. This repeated activity will help you become more familiar with a process for how to independently learn the meaning of new words.

Process

Throughout the course, you'll very likely encounter new and unfamiliar words. Some of these words will be addressed as part of the whole class vocabulary activities; however, many more of those words will not. Take out the BHP Vocab Tracker and follow your teacher's directions about how to look up that word. Any time you encounter a word you don't know in the course, add it to this tracker! By the end of the year, your personal lexicon will be huge, you'll be a better writer, and you'll very likely be better prepared for standardized tests



