

VOCAB—WORD WALL

Preparation

- Download [the Unit 2 Vocab Guide](#)
- Vocab cards (using index cards—or sticky notes—create one card for each unit vocabulary word in the Unit Vocab Guide)

Purpose

Understanding vocabulary is integral to students being able to access course content. This word wall activity will expose students to some of the most important words in Unit 2.

Process

In this activity, the class will work together to create a word wall using the Unit 2 vocabulary.

First, assign each of your students a word. Note: There are 17 vocab words in the Unit 2 Vocab Guide, so you may want to add more words or make sure students are working in pairs or groups. As always, before diving into any unit vocab activities, we suggest that you review the words provided. They might not work well for your class, and you might need to focus on different words. It's up to you. The most important thing is that you are constantly attending to vocabulary throughout the course.

Tell students that they are going to be creating a word wall for Unit 2, just like they did for Unit 1. Before starting on the wall, have students look at their vocab cards and give them a few minutes to find their word in the Unit 2 vocab guide, and to poke around the unit to see where their word might be most applicable. Once they feel confident about their word's definition, have them use the word in a sentence and add it to the vocab card and their vocab trackers.

Tell students that instead of starting with one word on the wall, this time you will start with two. Have students argue for why their word is the “best” one to start with—that is, why it's most critical to an understanding of the unit. Take a class vote (or narrow down some other way), then let the two students with the most votes add their words to the wall. You might want to have them transfer their words to a larger piece of paper before adding them to the wall to make sure they're visible from around the classroom. If you don't have a place to do this, you can have students create a smaller, personal word wall to keep on their desks.

Let students know that any time a word from the wall is mentioned in class, they have permission to call it out. You can have them do that in whatever way works best for your class: they can stand up, shout the word, or even do a little dance. This can be a fun game where you have a word of the week or word of the day, depending upon how you decide to add words to your wall.

Try to have all the words on the wall before you hit the word wheel activity later in this unit.

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Understanding vocabulary is integral to you being able to access course content. This word wall activity will expose you to some of the most important words in Unit 2.

Process

In this activity, you'll work with your class to create a word wall using the Unit 2 vocabulary.

Your teacher will assign a vocab card to each of you. Once you get yours, take a few minutes to look it up in the Unit 2 Vocab Guide and then examine the unit itself (click around and quickly skim the content) to see where in the unit your word might be most applicable. Once you've done your research, create a sentence using your word. And, just like you did in Unit 1, get ready to argue for why your word is the “best” one to start with. After everyone has given a pitch on their word, you'll all decide which two words should make it onto the wall first.

Your teacher may add some fun twists to this assignment, so be sure to listen closely for directions!

