

Expand Knowledge

Make Reading/Writing/Culture Connections

Get It

Get It Clear

Get It Together

Get It Across

How do I plan the culture connections unit?

1. Choose a topic or culture.

Topic or Culture: _____

2. Then list the words your students should learn to understand and explain the topic/Culture.

Topic: Cultures of Chicago

3. Then write a big question—you turn your topic into a question.

How are cultures of Chicago unique?

4. Then decide what students will read/listen to/see.
See the next page for an example.

Topic: Cultures of Chicago

BIG question

How are cultures of Chicago unique?

What we will read to find answers

B Books about cultures represented in Chicago

B The newspaper

B _____

B _____

What we will create to communicate our learning.

B Maps showing the world's cultures with Chicago connections

B A book showing the important information about cultures represented in Chicago

B A glossary

B _____

How do you know when a student knows the topic well?

When the student has a **working vocabulary**.

That means:

- B The student knows the terms and what they mean.
- B The student can apply these terms independently to explain this topic and another related topic.

How do you assess that knowledge?

- B You can check the student's word bank (see next page).
- B You can read the student's writing about a culture/topic (see following page).
- B You can read a student's labels for an illustration/pages in a book.

The next pages are examples of ways you can organize this assessment.

Build Knowledge: WORD BANK

TOPIC: _____

1. As you learn about a topic, list words that help explain this topic.

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2. Write each word on a small piece of paper.

3. Draw a picture or write an explanation for each word.

4. Then put your words into a Smart Pack.

A Smart Pack is an envelope in which you keep information about a topic.

5. Use these words to write about this topic to explain it to other students.

My Page about _____

Here are the most important words to know and what they mean.

Here are some important facts about _____.

Here is a description of _____.