

Creative Teaching

Making Connections with Velcro

DePaul Center for Urban Education
Polk Bros. Foundation Teacher Leadership Network

These engaging ways to use Velcro to increase learning were developed by the following Chicago Public School teachers who participated in a teacher workshop on thinking and test preparation connections in March 2001.

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Velcro Projects to Increase Lasting Learning

- I will use the Velcro to display student work!
- Stick questions up in the classroom on the wood paneling, especially by the classroom door, so that as the children line up, they will be thinking about science, social studies, etc. questions.
- Women's History Month Quilt:
Students research one woman. Draw a picture and attach with Velcro to felt. As a class, sew the different pieces of felt together in categories such as suffragists, artists, abolitionists, athletes, etc.
- Children can write questions and answers on different cards. The questions will be given to other children and they will have to find the answers on the wall and put up their questions.
- Velcro could be used to expand or make a stationary mobile. For example, you could build a person over the course of the quarter, starting with the brain and adding the skeletal system, muscles, organs, etc. You could do the same thing with building a country or continent. This method could be used to illustrate understanding of any large content area. The students could actually be assigned as illustrators.
- Create a main idea pyramid and post it on the wall with Velcro.
- Pupils can use this to make games that support skills such as vocabulary, main ideas, etc. The pupils prepare a large board with questions, then prepare various answers for the questions. Give the answers to other students. They will attach the answers to the board. Pupils rotate to different boards.

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- Students can use the Velcro to make vocabulary displays matching words and definitions. As the subject/topic changes, the words will change.
- I would use the Velcro to make a mobile. I would put Velcro on a big piece of colored chart paper. I would put Velcro on index cards and this way I could reproduce my mobiles with various units.
- I am planning to have students present “book commercials” selling their favorite books by way of mobiles, dioramas, favorite scenes, character analysis, etc. I will videotape the students presenting their books. I would use the Velcro to help students affix various materials to the dioramas.
- Use Velcro on the back of duty cards to identify the role of each member in the group.
- I teach first grade. I can use Velcro for: sequencing activities, webbing activities, and for displaying questions for my question pack. We can also display our poems. We also can use Velcro for our job board.
- I will use and reuse the Velcro to lay a variety of systems on the wall.
- I can use Velcro to increase student thinking. I can use Velcro to facilitate vocabulary activities: context clues, cloze paragraphs, synonym charts.
- Put Velcro on pencils and on desks. This would eliminate the loss of pencils and confusion of pencil ownership when pencils roll on the floor. In first grade pencil ownership and just keeping up with it can be a chore.
- Use Velcro to put on the back of blank index cards. Students can put words they find difficult and stick on a precut Word Tree that also has Velcro. Students could stick their word on the tree and independently read words, add on or delete as they master each word.
- Hop-Scotch on the Wall: Felt hop-scotch where students participate by tossing Velcro ball determining type of question to be made and then answered. Felt board contains categories featuring four levels of questions.
- I can use Velcro strips on questions and answer doors. The students open the door to find out questions. They look over the information and try to figure out the answer. When they are pretty sure of their answer, they may look under the answer door to see if they were correct.
- I teach seventh grade social studies. I’m going to put up two different boards—one with the branches of government and their responsibilities/powers; the other with powers given by the Constitution to the federal government, states, and those shared (a Venn diagram). The duties will be on flag shapes for small groups to sort and stick. Kinesthetic cooperative learning!
- I will be using Velcro to put together parts of systems (of the human body) on felt.
- Have students make puzzles on felt and attach Velcro to the back to make puzzle pieces stick.
- Make a character-web felt board. Put the character in the center and have students choose from different character traits to describe the character.
- Use Velcro to put together art projects like flexible puppets.
- Jeopardy Board!
- Make Smart Pack adhesives.

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- Create a word wall with definitions on a felt background so that terms can be moved around.
- Make a tangible time line: create a symbol from a time period and connect the symbols/objects with Velcro.
- Write different parts of speech on index cards and rearrange them to form new sentences.
- Use with a felt board to show equivalent fractions written as decimals and percentages.
- I can use the Velcro to stick the students' "brains" up all over the room, or as a mobile with their goal for reading or math written on it. They must illustrate their own brain—I'm interested in the size of their brain in relation to the size of how they think.
- We use Velcro on the fronts of our desks to display our current work. For example, when we were studying Japan, we made "suitcases" out of stapled construction paper and drew the symbol of the Japanese flag on the front. Next, we put our work in the suitcases as we completed each project. The students took their suitcases home at the end of the unit.
- Make a pop-up story book.
- Make a learning activity center using Velcro to attach an envelope that holds material to a folding science chart that students can visit when their work is completed or needs motivation.