

Strategy Index: Grades 3-5

Pre-reading

Activating Prior Knowledge

Graffiti Wall

Graffiti Walls welcome students to share their background knowledge by visually representing what they already know about a key concept on a large, blank canvas.

1. Provide students with a large, blank paper and colorful writing tools. (bulletin board paper, poster board, chalkboard, dry erase board)
2. Invite students to visually represent (words, pictures, symbols) what they know about a topic.
3. As a whole group, review the wall and allow students to share and explain their contributions.
4. Leave the graffiti wall up during the unit of study for students to add newly acquired knowledge.

Extension:

Sidewalk Chalk: Add some fun by going outside and having students list what they already know about a topic with sidewalk chalk. Then take a class walk around and read aloud students' written sharing.

Common Core State ELA Standards Correlation: Grades 3-5 Writing

W-8 Recall relevant information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources, take notes, and organize information and evidence into categories.

Tags: background knowledge, prior knowledge, whole group, vocabulary, reading strategy, illustration, art connection, prereading, pre-reading, prereading strategy