

# Vocabulary Charts

## Description

This type of informational chart is used to record and organize vocabulary that is important to a text, activity, or unit of study.

## Purpose

Vocabulary charts are a vocabulary strategy and tool to aid students in word analysis. Students connect prior knowledge to new conceptual understanding acquired through reading or an inquiry-based unit of study. Vocabulary charts also help to raise student awareness of what they know and do not know.

## Connection to Inquiry and Standards:

Students determine their level of understanding of vocabulary. Also, they either try to define the terms in their own words or select a source to use to find the meaning. Natural connections are made between what they are learning and what they already know from prior experiences. Students provide evidence for the meaning of the terms. Pennsylvania Reading/Writing/Speaking/Listening Standards addressed by this strategy include 1.1 Learning to Read Independently (vocabulary development) and 1.3 Reading, Analyzing, and Interpreting Literature (word recognition skills and vocabulary development).

## Materials

Selected text or an activity to use with this strategy. Copies of vocabulary chart or chart paper and a marker.

## Procedure

Make a vocabulary chart on a large piece of chart paper or reproduce a copy of a smaller chart for each student. Select vocabulary words that are essential for students to know for the unit of study. Students write these words in the words column. Ask students to write the meaning of the word in the "I Know the Meaning" column if they think they know it. Students should place a small check mark in the "I Need to Use the Glossary or Other Source" column if they are unsure of the meaning. Students read the assigned text or conduct the investigation. Students use the chart throughout the unit and fill in the meanings of words as they discover their meanings through the investigations, discussion, readings, or other source.

## Resource

Tompkins, Gail E. (1996). 50 Literacy Strategies: Step by Step. Columbus, OH: Merrill.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Unit of Study \_\_\_\_\_

### Vocabulary Chart

<b>Vocabulary Words</b>	<b>I Know the Meaning (write it in the space)</b>	<b>I Need to Use the Glossary or Other Source</b>

**List Other Sources Used to Find Meanings of Words:**

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