

Snowball Words



Purpose of Activity

This activity is designed to familiarize students with words in the “You’d Be Surprised” currency videos that they may not have seen before. By working with their peers to find the matching words and definitions before the video is shown, the students will have a better understanding of the content presented.

Concepts taught: understanding words, vocabulary, definitions, collaborative discussion

Materials Needed

- A list of vocabulary words and definitions from one of the “You’d Be Surprised” videos
- White paper
- A large bin
- You’d Be Surprised: Special Features video and/or the You’d Be Surprised: The Journey video [uscurrency.gov/videos](https://www.uscurrency.gov/videos)

Instructions

- 1 Give a vocabulary list and a piece of paper to each student.
- 2 Go around the room and tell each student a word or definition to write on their paper.
- 3 After the students write on their piece of paper, tell them to crinkle it up into a ball and toss it into the bin that will be brought to them.
- 4 Mix all the snowballs up in the bin and allow each student to choose one.
- 5 Invite the students to choose a snowball out of the pile and return to their seat.
- 6 When all of the students have selected a snowball, tell them to stand up and move around the room to try to find the person who has the definition of their word or the word that matches their definition.
- 7 Show the video(s) to the students to reinforce the vocabulary they have learned.

Level of Learning

Level One: Read the word or definition written on the piece of paper to the students who may have reading issues when they pick up their snowball. Allow other students to help guide those who are having trouble finding their partner.

Level Two: Follow the activity as written above.

Level Three: When the higher learners have found their partners, allow them to help the other students to be successful.

