Vocabulary Lesson Plan

A Super Short Story

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 creating a short story using many vocabulary words before the video is shown, the students will have a better understanding of the content presented.

Concepts taught: narrative writing, following rules for group discussion, sentence writing, correct vocabulary use, collaborative discussion

Materials Needed

- A list of vocabulary words and definitions from one of the “You’d Be Surprised” videos
- “A Super Short Story” worksheets
- You’d Be Surprised: Special Features video and/or the You’d Be Surprised: The Journey video uscurrency.gov/videos

Instructions

1. Make copies of the vocabulary list for each student and the “A Super Short Story” worksheet for each group.

2. Place the students into small groups of three or four and hand out vocabulary lists, definitions, and one “A Super Short Story” worksheet per group.

3. Ask each group to choose one person to record the group’s story on the worksheet and one person to share the story. Inform the groups of the story rules:
   - The story can only have four sentences.
   - It must have at least six words in each sentence.
   - It must use as many vocabulary words as possible.
   - It can be about anything, but it must make sense.

4. Each group shares their super short story.

5. Show the video(s) to the students to reinforce the vocabulary they have learned.

Level of Learning

Level One: Reduce the amount of vocabulary words to be used in the story. You can also have the students write individual sentences using some vocabulary words instead of an entire story.

Level Two: Follow the activity as written above.

Level Three: Challenge the students to write stories that are six sentences long instead of four.
A Super Short Story
Is your group ready to write a super short story?

Instructions:
Before you start, there are a few rules your group must follow:

• Choose one group member to be the writer of the group’s ideas and another to share the finished story to the class.

• Write down the names of the people in your group on the lines below.

• Be sure that the story has only four sentences with at least six words in each sentence. Don’t forget to give your story a title.

• Use as many vocabulary words as you can in your story.

• Your story can be about anything you would like, but it must make sense and be entertaining.

The people in this group are: __________________________________________

Title: ______________________________________________________________

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