MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

Learning Target: I can describe target vocabulary through descriptions, gestures, examples or the definition.



Instructional Strategy: Heads Up Vocabulary

This strategy is a fun and engaging way for students to practice their speaking & listening while reviewing vocabulary words from Wonders, IntoMath or your science & social studies curriculum. In Heads Up, a student or teacher holds up one of the vocabulary words to their forehead displaying the term for the class to see.

The student or the teacher holding the card has to guess the term based on the definition, clues, gestures or questions their peers offer them. Here are a few fun ways to use this strategy!

Small Groups: Students are placed in small groups and given a set of vocabulary words. One student goes first and draws a card. Without looking at the vocabulary card, the students lifts the word to their forehead and allows their peers to describe the term. Once the student correctly identifies the term, the next student draws a card with a vocabulary term.

Whole Class: Another way to play involves the whole class. Every student gets a card with a word on it. Without looking at their word, they hold it to their forehead. At the same time, everyone walks around the classroom giving clues. When a student has identified their word, they can remove it. Keep playing until every student has guessed their word.

You can challenge students to give clues without using gestures or without using the straight definition. This activity will help your ML students practice their speaking skills through describing content- related information, asking and answering questions about specific terms, providing descriptive details related to identified vocabulary. This activity is one your students will love and can be easily adapted to any set of academic vocabulary terms!



Frontload the vocabulary terms

Teaching

- Give time for students to rehearse their clues for each term
- Provide a list of the terms students will be playing with
- Provide sentence frames/pictures



