



Brainstorm Key Words

Duration: 45 minutes | **Overview:** Students will learn and practice the “Brainstorm Key Words” strategy to improve vocabulary awareness and reading comprehension.

Materials:

- Nonfiction text of your choice
- NFR “Brainstorm Key Words” student activity/handout

Steps:

Before the Activity:

1. (Optional) Complete the teacher-version of the Brainstorm Key Words strategy here.
2. Identify a text for students to read that relates to your curriculum.
3. Display only the title of the reading to the class.
4. Think-Pair-Share (3 minutes) using the Brainstorm Key Words handout/activity:
 - a. Think: What words might appear in this text?
 - b. Pair: Share predictions with a partner
 - c. Share: Collect 5-6 predictions on the board
5. Explain the strategy to students before moving onto next steps.

During the Activity:

1. Before setting students free to work independently, model how the strategy works using the next paragraph or section of the reading.
2. Ask students to finish reading the text, collecting new key words that they discover along the way in the second column of the Brainstorm Key Words handout/activity and annotating their original list using the key below:
 - a. ✓ Circle words found exactly as predicted
 - b. ✗ Cross out words that didn't appear
 - c. + Add synonyms/similar phrases found
3. When they finish reading, ask students to finish the prompt, “This text is about...” in the final section of the handout using at least two of the text’s key words.

After the Activity:



1. Once everyone is finished, ask students to share their words with the class.
2. Ask students to complete an exit ticket reflection using one of the following sentence starters:
 - a. "This strategy helped me because..."
 - b. "The most challenging part of this activity was..."
 - c. "I want to try this strategy when reading..."
 - d. "This activity would work better for me if..."