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## Collect and Explore Word Gaps

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**Duration:** 50 minutes | **Objective:** Students will learn the Collect and Explore Word Gaps strategy to deepen comprehension through vocabulary analysis

### Materials:

- Vocabulary-rich articles (different for each pair)
- [Word Gap student activity handout](#)
- Highlighters/colored pens
- Devices for definition search
- Chart paper for modeling

### Steps:

#### Before the Activity:

1. (Optional) Complete the teacher-version of the [Explore Word Gaps](#) strategy here.
2. Identify a vocabulary-rich text for students to read that relates to your curriculum.
3. Ask student to read the first paragraph or two of the text
  - a. "Circle any word you couldn't confidently define to someone else"
  - b. No talking - just marking
4. Ask students to raise their hand if they marked 3+ words & share that today's activity will help them discover the meaning of words that aren't known to them yet, which will help them interpret difficult texts.

#### During the Activity:

1. Model the "Explore Word Gaps" strategy for students:
  - a. Read the first paragraph or two aloud & highlight unknown or unfamiliar words
  - b. Transfer to "word gaps" list
  - c. Look up definitions for these words & model choosing a definition that fits the word in the reading's context.
  - d. Look for patterns between the words.
  - e. Define the author's message based on the patterns you've uncovered.
2. Ask students to read the text independently, noting word gaps as they go.



3. Have students define their own words or connect in small groups to pool their words together and split up defining them.
4. In small groups, have students work to identify patterns in the words that they have discovered & defined, and explain how those patterns connect to the topic of the text.

**After the Activity:**

1. As a class, have groups share their discoveries.
2. Ask students to complete an exit ticket in response to one of the following prompts:
  - a. The most surprising word pattern I discovered today was...
  - b. One word I learned that I want to remember is...