

Strategies for Building Schema Independently/Historical Texts

RESOURCES

Use Google to build schema:

- For any place name and many other nouns, you can click "images" or "videos" and then enter the unfamiliar names or words, and get pictures and videos. (Remember how important it is to be able to attach a visual image to an abstract concept, especially for ELLs.)
- A puzzling phrase can be entered in quotation marks, to find websites that use that same phrase, and you can see where it's used, and how.
- If you type a question into Google, you may be directed to a site that gives you information.

Use references particularly helpful for history/social studies:

In the library: REF books 900-919. Dictionaries/encyclopedias on world culture and history.

Merriam-Webster online dictionary: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>: For many words, provides a definition for English language-learners. (Read to the bottom of the standard definition, and you'll see "See ____ defined for English language learners" with a link to another definition.) Good for all students who have trouble understanding dictionary definitions. (We're all English language learners, right?)

Also, Multnomah county library's homework center. Here's a link to the history page:
<http://www.multcolib.org/homework/histhc.html>

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Model how to use Google and other tools. Demonstrate on projector. (Think Aloud)

Group kids by something common in their topics, and have them practice using a resource together, and sharing knowledge they acquire.

Or, maybe have the kids write down their book topics/themes and then put together a **webquest** that addresses them, so that they can independently gain background knowledge on their specific topic. (Media specialist can help with this.)

Almanac study—or any other reference materials you use.

Teach a **brief history of the world mini-unit**.