

AlphaBoxes

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T
U	V	W X	Y Z

Pair-Square with AlphaBoxes

This activity will help students increase their word knowledge either before they begin a unit of study or at the end as they review what they have learned.

First, students will individually list all of the words that they know about a topic on their AlphaBoxes graphic organizer. The teacher may use this as a classroom assessment for learning by simply noting the amount and kinds of words students are recording on their sheets.

Pair – Students will work with a partner to compare their lists and add any words that they did not have on their own.

Square – Two pairs of students get together and compare the words they have recorded on their AlphaBoxes graphic organizer. They will add to their own personal sheet as they share the words and discuss why they should be included in the chart.

This activity will help students learn vocabulary through repetition and discussion. Students should be encouraged to check their spelling of the words during the Pair section of the activity. That way they will have accurate information to share during the Square.

AlphaBoxes is a graphic organizer that can not only activate students' prior knowledge about a topic, but can be used to collect vocabulary during a unit of study. It is like the student's own personal word wall. If this graphic organizer is given to students at the beginning of a unit, they can fill in all of the vocabulary they know about that topic. The teacher can quickly assess student knowledge. As the unit progresses, students add to the AlphaBoxes as new words are introduced. AlphaBoxes also can be used to stimulate writing about the topic. Students will be able to refer back to this graphic organizer to get the appropriate words as they explain their learning.