



### Student Tasks:

- Review vocabulary definitions
- Visualize each word's meaning
- Create illustrations of the words

### Online ThinkCERCA Modules:

- Vocabulary for Core Lessons

→ [Editable Template](#)

# Visual Vocabulary

Vocabulary comprehension and analysis through graphics.

*Suggested Time: 10 minutes*

## Rationale/Research Base

Visual Vocabulary is an activity that uses the illustration of words to help students learn and retain vocabulary. Providing students an opportunity to visualize new vocabulary and represent its meaning in a creative way can help students make meaning of words beyond their definitions.

## Optimal Application Notes:

Choose a list of vocabulary words that are meaningful or relevant to the unit or objective. Words can be abstract or concrete.

### Before:

- Provide students with the basic definition of the words.
- Designate what medium the student should use to represent the words. Will you use a paper or digital drawing tool?

### During:

- Have students review the vocabulary.
- Ask students to ensure they have an understanding of the vocabulary words and can explain them in their own words.
- For each word, students should create a visual representation that captures the essence of its meaning. This could be through images, symbols, or creative drawings.
- Ask students to think about how each word might be related in some way. Can they think of ways to show the relationship between several words?

### After:

- Display or compile images. Showcase creative work or take student volunteers. Create a class compilation or hang visuals publicly.
- Provide space (portfolio, folder, etc.) and time for students to refer back to visual cues when using vocabulary when reading, writing, or discussing.

## Guidelines:

- Students can start with a basic illustration, but they should also be encouraged to use different colors and symbols to enhance the visual appeal. Consider color-coding elements to represent various aspects of the word (e.g., synonyms, antonyms, examples if appropriate).
- Students should play with different visuals that best capture each word's meaning.

**Assemble and View:**

- Once everyone is ready, have participants share their sketches with small groups.
- Students can guess the meaning of words based on the sketch.
- Encourage group members to ask questions and share their thoughts on the interpretations of each word's visual representation.

**Wrap it Up:**

- Wrap up the exercise by reviewing some of the nuances of each quality sketch and how students can use these visuals to remember new vocabulary terms.
- Discuss how this exercise enhanced participants' understanding of the vocabulary and how these words fit into the larger unit concepts or objectives.
- Using Visual Storyboard as a vocabulary exercise provides a creative way for students to engage with words and concepts to promote vocabulary retention.

**Scaffolds & Supports:**

- Check basic comprehension of the vocabulary words' definitions prior to asking students to sketch. Translations and cognates might also be used to support comprehension of the literal meaning.
- Review first drafts and brainstorming notes and ask students to explain their thinking.
- Provide a range of vocabulary words for students to choose from to differentiate based on readiness. Some students might already have a strong grasp of certain words and not others, so they should have an opportunity to complete the activity with the words that are new to them.
- Use pairs instead of groups.

# Visual Vocabulary

**Instructions:** Enhance vocabulary acquisition and understanding through visual aids and imagery.

## Review and Brainstorm:

- Review the vocabulary, definitions, and parts of speech. Make sure you understand the meaning of each word.
- Brainstorm different visual representations or images that can help convey the meanings of the vocabulary words. Consider symbols, icons, illustrations, or diagrams that capture the essence of each word.

## Guidelines for Visual Vocabulary:

- Create Visuals: Create visual representations of the vocabulary words. Draw images that reflect the meanings or concepts conveyed by each word, using colors, shapes, and symbols to enhance clarity and understanding.
- Label and Annotate: Label each visual with necessary annotations or brief explanations to provide context or clarify the meaning of the word.
- Share with Peers: Share your visual representations with your classmates, either in person or through digital platforms. Allow them time to guess the word based on your drawing. Explain the meaning and significance of each visual, and invite feedback and discussion from your peers.
- Engage in Discussion: Engage in discussions with your classmates about the visual representations of the vocabulary words. Share insights, ask questions, and explore different interpretations and perspectives.

# Visual Vocabulary

3rd – 5th

**Instructions:** Get better at learning new words by using pictures and drawings to help you understand them!

## Review and Brainstorm:

- Think about the new words you've learned, what they mean, and what type of word they are (like a noun, verb, or adjective).
- Brainstorm different pictures or drawings that show what the words mean. You can use symbols and drawings to help remember each word.

## Guidelines for Visual Vocabulary:

- Create Visuals: Make pictures for our new words! Draw images that show what each word means. Use colors, shapes, and symbols to make your drawings really clear and easy to understand.
- Label and Annotate: Label each picture with necessary information and short explanations to make sure the meaning of the word is clear.
- Share with Peers: Share your pictures with your classmates, either in person or through digital platforms. Give them time to guess the word based on your drawing. Explain the meaning and why you used each visual, and invite suggestions and ideas from your classmates.
- Engage in Discussion: Talk to your classmates about the pictures of the vocabulary words. Share new ideas or connections and ask questions.