Lessons Plans

Grade Levels - 3rd and up

Subjects - Language Arts

Concepts, Skills, and Learning Strategies -

vocabulary development
multiple meanings
compound words
problem solving
Connecting thoughts and ideas
Oral Communication
Listening
Inductive and Deductive learning

Activity Idea #1

On the board, overhead, or chart paper list the following Buzzword phrases. Ask the students to read the list and think about how all of the phrases are alike.

High five
Five card stud
Nine-to-five
Take five
Five o'clock shadow
Jackson Five
Five for Fighting
Hawaii Five-O
Five Alive
Five-dollar bill

The common feature of the above listing is they all include the word "five." Have the students work individually or with a partner to create definitions/clues for each of these phrases. Then working with another team, person, or as a whole class activity, take turns sharing a definition and having others buzz when they know which phrase is being defined. The person with the correct answer can give the next definition.

Activity Idea #2

Use sets of two cards that include a **Buzzword** phrase on one card and its definition/clue on the other card. Have enough cards for the entire class. Randomly distribute the cards and then direct the students to find the person with the card that goes with theirs. This is a good way to create teams or partners for other activities. You will find a set of possible game cards at the end of these plan ideas.

Activity Idea #3

Begin your class period with a **Buzzword**. As students enter the class they look at the day's word and begin to make a list of words & phrases that use the word. They also create a definition/clue for each idea. You may use a word that is specific to the content of the day's lesson or choose from one of the words listed below. This is a great way to keep your students minds active from the first moment of the class period. Take time to share a few definitions/clues before the day's lesson begins.

Some good Buzzwords to use: snow, day, any, red, pig, chip, cheese, ice, butter, ball, down, after, blue, over, cake, and corn.

Activity Idea #4

Place your students into groups of 4 for this cooperative learning activity. Have each group member adopt one of the following roles: Reader, Writer, Speaker, or Buzzer. Each group will receive a Buzzword and list of clues (without answers). (You may give all groups the same list or different lists.) The Reader will read the clues and the Writer will record the groups answers. All members need to participate in solving the clues. When all clues are solved to the groups satisfaction, the Buzzer buzzes. At this point all groups stop their work, turn over their papers, and listen to the responses of the group that buzzed. These responses will be read aloud by the Reader. If the same lists are used, the groups may compare answers. If different lists are used, the responding group will get a new list if all the answers are acceptable. The other groups continue with their list until they, too, can buzz. Establish a time allotment for this activity. The objective is for each group to complete as many lists as possible. Several Buzzwords and clue lists are included for possible use at the end of these plans.

Take Home Activity

Use the Buzzwords and clue lists from Activity #4 as family involvement homework. Encourage the students to share the lists with their family to solve the clues. For extra fun suggest they work together to develop a family Buzzword and clue list that can be shared with the class.

Answer Key

Activity #2:

Scramble Egg = Beaten, then fried
Water spout = climbed by the Itsy Bitsy Spider
Egg Carton = Box with 12 cavities
Water buffalo = Animal like a wildebeest
Moon Rock = Little piece taken from the lunar surface
Plymouth Rock = The Pilgrims landed here
Blue's Clues = Nickelodeon's sleuth dog show
Bluegrass State = Kentucky's nickname
Never-Never Land = Peter Pan's home
Land ho! = Shout it from the ship when you see land
Three little pigs = Wolf targets
Pig Pen = Charlie Brown's messy friend
Billfold = Another name for wallet

Activity #4:

JACK - Jack be nimble...= Jack jumped over the candlestick
Auto robbery = Carjack
Pancake = Flapjack
Paul Bunyan was a big one = Lumberjack
He sat in the corner... = Little Jack Horner
Fairytale of a boy/magic beans = Jack & the Beanstalk

HAT - **Take up a collection = Pass the Hat**
Storybook Feline = Cat in the Hat
Magicians do it every day = Pull a rabbit out of the hat
Join in the competition = Throw your hat in the ring
Mum's the word = Keep it under your hat
Without hesitation = At the drop of the hat

CHAIR - A baby's feeding seat = high chair
Takes you up the ski hill = chair lift
Get your hair cut in this = Barber's chair
Bathroom learning tool for toddlers = Potty chair
Mom sits here to soothe the baby = rocking chair
Best violin player sits here = first chair