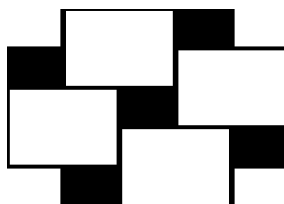


2-4-6-8 Squares

2-4-6-8 Vocabulary Squares was designed to help students understand words based on their individual background knowledge. Students can create their own graphic organizers with 2, 4, 6, or 8 squares for processing (making sense and meaning of) a vocabulary word.

Introducing the Activity

- Give students a copy of the "2-4-6-8 Vocabulary Squares Ideas" sheet and a blank piece of paper
- Explain that there are many ways to elaborate on a word and its meaning. Read through the list of ideas on the Ideas sheet and talk about what each idea might look like. Give examples and model on chalkboard or overhead.
- Give students a sample word from the vocabulary list, and show them how to fold their paper into equal sized boxes (you can also make 2, 4, or 8 boxes, depending on grade level and time available).
- Go back to the ideas list and say "Let's choose six ways from the list to elaborate on this word. A different choice will go inside each box." Ask students to read through the list silently and place stars by six ways they like.
- Invite students to share some ideas they starred. Write some samples on the board and demonstrate ways to fulfill the requirement.
- Have students work with partners and use texts, reference books, dictionaries, glossaries, and thesauruses to complete each square.
- Allow time for sharing the organizers as a class. Students will get good ideas from seeing what their classmates have done.



2-4-6-8 Vocabulary Squares Ideas

List A: Ideas for Understanding the Basics of a Word

- Define it in your own words.
- Illustrate the word.
- Write a meaningful sentence.
- List characteristics of the word.
- Create a rhyme, pun, or cartoon.
- List synonyms.
- List antonyms.
- List other meanings for the word.
- List words with the same spelling pattern.

List B: Ideas for Analyzing and Applying a Word

- How and when would you use the word?
- List three examples of the word.
- Web to the word to 4 related words or concepts.
- List two ways you might use the word in the future.
- Use the word in a question or an exclamatory sentence.
- Divide the word into syllables.
- Add a prefix or a suffix. Explain how the word's meaning changes.
- Create a simile or metaphor.
- Use the word in an analogy.
- Summarize what you know about the word in a sentence.

List C: Ideas for Evaluating and Synthesizing the Word

- What are your opinions and feelings about the word?
- Connect the word to your life.
- How does the word relate to current world events.
- Create a "what if" question with the word.
- List the pros and cons of the word.
- Rate the word 1,2 or 3 based on how important you think the word is for this unit. Explain.
- Create an acronym to explain what it means.
- Research the etymology (history) of the word.

2, 4, 6, 8 Vocabulary Squares

Name _____

Word _____
