

American History - Sample Vocabulary Lesson

Topic: The Thirteen Colonies

From the classroom of Emma Brown –ESL History teacher at Alamo Middle School in Alamo, Texas.

List vocabulary words on the chalkboard, on a bulletin board, and in a handout.

merchant, mercantilism, settlers, colony, starvation,
permanent, representatives, House of Burgesses,
representative government

1. Introduce topic and guide students through a “picture walk” (discussion of what they see in pictures) in chapter or book of the Thirteen Colonies.
2. Guide students through pronunciation of new words
3. Pre-teach vocabulary words by reading the word and telling students what each word means.
4. Provide a picture of each of the words – if a visual is available within the book, refer students to sample provided within text.
5. Small group discussion – allow time for students to discuss meaning of words and list any cognates, synonyms or antonyms they may know for the new vocabulary words
6. Pairs practice – have students read both word and definition to a partner. Students should make reference to visual for better understanding of meaning.
7. Independent work – each student will create their own study guide for the new vocabulary words using Window Pane activity.*

Thirteen Colonies		
Merchant	Mercantilism	Settlers
Colony	Starvation	Permanent
Representatives	House of Burgesses	Representative government

* In the Window Pane activity, a sheet of paper is divided into sections, creating “window panes.” Students write vocabulary words in the panes, and draw a simple picture describing the word.