

Grade level: 6

Summary

Students “put their heads together” for brainstorming sessions and to share answers to questions.

Technology tools:

AlphaSmart 3000

Additional resources:

Kagan Structures for Cooperative Learning

(Note: To learn about Kagan Structures for Cooperative Learning, visit

<http://www.kaganonline.com>.)

Step-by-step tasks:

Preparation

1. Select Social Studies text for students to read.
2. Pre read the text and develop a set of questions to guide the reading.
3. Develop a second set of questions that would require deeper understanding of the reading.
4. Send the first set of questions to File 1 on the AlphaSmarts.
5. Send the second set of questions to File 2 on the AlphaSmarts.
6. Assign the reading and tell students to answer questions in File 1 as they read.

Activities

1. Students read and answer questions as they read.
2. When students complete the assigned reading, have the open File 2 on their AlphaSmarts.
3. Students answer the first question individually.
4. After students work independently, the teacher puts students into cooperative groups and tells them to “Put Your Heads Together.”
5. Students share the answers they have with their assigned group and discuss why the answers are correct or why they are wrong and the group has to come to an agreement on one answer.
6. The teacher calls on someone to give their answer.
7. If any student or group disagrees, they have to give an answer.
8. The teacher verifies and now everyone knows the right answer.
9. This continues until all questions are answered.