**Unit Collage**

A unit collage is an ongoing visual developed by students as a synthesis of a topic covered in class. Students are able to process information more deeply through the synthesis of their own visual and linguistic ideas. The collages provide a check for student understanding and informal assessment. They may also serve as study/revision tools.

**AFTER**

* Teacher will decide
  + Whether students should share their collage with the class / a partner
  + how to respond to the collages
  + what to do with the collages
  + what records to keep
* To challenge advanced learners – the task can be left more open ended – allowing students to decide what is important in the unit and how they should record the information

**DURING**

* Teacher explains that
  + this is a tool that will help the teacher know what students understand
  + therefore students need to work independently
  + this is a tool they may use to help them revise
* Teacher may observe when she gives students the paper/ template
  + Student readiness (some may resist first time around)
* Teacher should stop periodically through the unit for students to fill in a box on their collage
* Midway through a lesson- brainstorm ideas with the class and then provide 5 minutes for them to individually complete their box- as a check for understanding.
* Teacher should rove during this time to assess
  + Student ability to work on their own
  + And provide a prompt, especially if first time (but not do the activity!)
* Teacher may give 5 minutes at the end of the lesson as closure / assign one box for homework

**BEFORE**

Teacher needs to:

* Decide which unit, and when in the lessons the collage opportunity will be provided
* Rehearse the organisation and introduction to students (if first time use)
  + Take a poster size sheet of paper and divide into at least 6 boxes
  + Write the heading/topic/title of the unit/lesson at the top of the page
  + Throughout unit stop after discussing an important concept/ key idea/ subtopic and brainstorm with the whole class how to illustrate the concept/ key idea/ subtopic to make it visual. Decide which vocabulary/phrases/quotes could also be included.
  + Illustrate the concept that has been worked on adding any content specific language
  + Continue with the unit – this may take several lessons/days/weeks until it is finished and along the way create a new block each time
  + At the end of the unit use the class generated Unit Collage to help review the unit
* Decide whether the template will be copied off with subtopics or questions written in each box (**this assists younger or struggling students)**

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