

Title: Investigate a new word from "Notes from the Trail."

Subject: English Language Arts

Grade Level: Late Elementary (4-6)

Time: 35 minutes

Objective:

Students will apply reading strategies to improve understanding and fluency. Students will apply work analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.

Method:

Print out a copy of the day's "Notes From the Trail" for each student, or one per cooperative learning group.

Have students read the day's "Notes From the Trail," carefully marking each word they are unfamiliar with. There should be at least 7-10 new words. Use dictionaries, glossaries, or online dictionaries (See Resources) to correctly define the unfamiliar word. Make sure that students can use the unfamiliar word in an un-related sentence.

Illinois State Goals and Standards

1.A.2a Read and comprehend unfamiliar words using root words, synonyms, antonyms, word origins and derivations.

1.A.2b Clarify word meaning using context clues and a variety of resources including glossaries, dictionaries, and thesauruses.

1.A.3b Analyze the meaning of words and phrases in their context.

Resources: www.dictionary.com, www.yourdictionary.com, or you can use the Wilderness Classroom's Glossary.

Whenever you see a word highlighted in red, click on the word to view the quick definition.

Lesson Extensions:

Keep a running log of the newly comprehended words and their definitions and parts of speech. Have weekly contests to see which student has gained the most vocabulary from "Notes from the Trail."