

The Primer

What and How does their brains connect to the topic, “Fractioned Earth?” Without giving any hint as to what the unit is about complete the following activity.

Complete a List-Group-Label activity with the topic of “Fractioned Earth.”

1. Pass out a stack of post-it notes to each group of 3-5 students.
2. Write “Fractioned Earth” on the board and give them at least 1 minute of silence to think about what it could mean in their heads.
3. Task the students to write one to two word ideas that they believe connect to that topic. (You could get anything from math—to broken—to pollution—to tectonic plates—to segregation/racism...anything). There are no parameters or rules...let the ideas flow!
4. After 10 minutes (if you feel that they have had enough time) stop and ask the students to group together their ideas that they believe are connected in some way. This may take another 10 minutes or so.
5. Pass out a piece of chart paper and markers. Have the students write “Fractioned Earth” at the top of the page and stick the sticky notes onto the page in their categories. When all the movement of the sticky-notes are done they are to circle the category and come up with a label/name for it.
 - a. **Note:** Make sure to walk the room and be present during their brainstorming in both sessions so you don’t end up with labels such as “nouns, verbs, has double letters...etc...” The category labels need to have a meaning attached to the ideas inside.
 - b. **Note:** Keep a look out for topics that may be good for their “passion,” later. What excites or even upsets them. Start writing the questions on a piece of chart paper as the unit progresses so that students who are having a hard time developing a question to delve into can resource to the list.
 - c. **Note:** This is a simple activity that can spark very deep questions and topics. Give it time to mature in the classroom.