

# ABC Graffiti

## What

It is a brainstorming activity to foster thinking about vocabulary words about a topic or concept. Students generate words or phrases for each letter of the alphabet related to the topic or theme.

## Why

Students need novel ways to stimulate their thinking about new concepts. This is a unique way to challenge students to think about words related to a specific topic to help them make connections between new learning and their prior knowledge.

## How

This strategy can be used prior to learning a new topic or before reading a content area book. It can also be used during reading to record new terms encountered when reading or learning about the concept. Finally, it can be used as a summary activity to show what students learned throughout the unit of study.

Give each student a copy of the ABC Graffiti handouts. Have them brainstorm for three minutes on their own, listing as many words as they know about the topic. Place students into pairs or in small teams to share their lists. Students can write down additional words on their chart based on input from other group members.

Example for Oceans:

<b>A</b> angel fish anemone	<b>B</b> beach barnacle	<b>C</b> clam coral	<b>D</b> deep-sea diving
<b>E</b> eel	<b>F</b> fish freighter	<b>G</b> Great Barrier Reef	<b>H</b> hurricane
<b>I</b> iceberg island	<b>J</b> Jellyfish Jaws	<b>K</b> kelp	<b>L</b> land
<b>M</b> marina mollusk	<b>N</b> Neap tides	<b>O</b> octopus	<b>P</b> phytoplankton puffer fish
<b>Q</b> quiet	<b>R</b> reef rocks	<b>S</b> sailboats seastar (starfish)	<b>T</b> tortoise tsunami
<b>U</b> underwater cave	<b>V</b> view volcano	<b>W</b> whale water	<b>XYZ</b> zooplankton x-ray fish