SOS SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES

Simple instructional strategies that incorporate digital media in meaningful, effective, and practical ways.

VISUAL WALKABOUT

BIG IDEA

The purpose of a Visual Walkabout is to engage students in a new concept, by providing them sneak peeks of important components using a series of images. Students can make connections and ask questions that will determine the flow of the unit. This also allows educators to assess prior knowledge and address early misconceptions.

STEPS

Materials: paper, pencils/pens, a series of images from Discovery Education

1. Before class begins, print and post a series of 8-10 images from Discovery Education around your learning space. Aim to post a variety of images, such as photographs, illustrations, graphic organizers, and maps.
2. Post a T-chart under each image. On the left side of the chart, write *Connections* and, on the right side of the chart, write *Questions*.
   Tip: You could also display the images on a device and have students complete a digital version of the T-chart.
3. Explain to students they will be beginning a new unit, and today's activity will provide a sneak peek of the topics.
4. Divide students into pairs or groups of three. Have groups visit a minimum of 5 images. As they visit each image, ask students to consider how the image may relate to the unit. Each pair or small group should add at least one *Connection* and one *Question* to the T-chart for each image.
5. Throughout the unit, refer back to the images and the students' initial connections and questions.

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SUM IT UP

This strategy is an effective way to help students make connections and ask questions. Visual Walkabout also allows educators to asses prior knowledge and address early misconceptions.

MORE IDEAS

- Keep images on display throughout a unit, and have students continue to post their connections and questions. You could also have students comment on the initial connections and answer posted questions.
- If working digitally, a classroom blog or website is a great place to post images to keep the conversation going. A web-based service such a Google Docs allows students to create, edit, and collaborate on a digital version of a T-chart.