

Understanding Big Ideas

Core Vocabulary and Definitions

The “big idea” concept word has an asterisk:

- Problem*
- Solution
- Disagree

Prior to Instruction

Program student AAC devices with response options (both correct responses and distractors) to the comprehension questions. Sample words include:

- “Mountains”
- “Ideas they have”
- “A cat”
- “I don’t know” or “I need help”

Anchor Instruction for All Students

Prior to beginning instruction, review the three target words (problem, solution, and disagree) and review the concept of a problem (“something that needs to be fixed”). Tell students they will read a social studies newsletter today to learn more about how people can work together to solve problems. Show pictures of people working together to solve problems, like talking about things, building a house for a family, or cleaning up the environment.

Differentiated Systematic and Explicit Instruction

Follow the instructional steps below. Adapt the steps or language, as needed, to account for student-specific needs. After each step, provide specific verbal feedback for correct responses and participation.



Learning Objectives

- Students will highlight core vocabulary and key details in the Social Studies Newsletter.
- Students will answer questions about the Social Studies Newsletter.
- Students will identify problems and solutions.
- Students will recognize ways to make a decision or resolve a conflict.

Materials

- Student Worksheet 1: Vocabulary Words (one per student and one for the teacher)
- Student Worksheet 2: Concepts with Examples and Non-Examples (one per student and one for the teacher)
- Student Worksheet 3: Newsletter and Comprehension (one per student and one for the teacher)
- Highlighters (one per student and one for the teacher)