

Anchor Activities

(NOT Shut-Up Sheets)

- To provide *meaningful* work for students when they finish an assignment or project, when they first enter the class, or when they are stumped
- To provide ongoing tasks that tie to the content and instruction
- To free up the classroom teacher to work with other groups of students or individuals

An additional resource to consider suggested by Betsy Connell from Girdwood:

Differentiating instruction in the Regular Classroom – How to Reach and Teach All Learners, grades 3-12 by Diane Heacox (see p. 112 for a work log reproducible)

Cross-Curricular:

- Graffiti Board (butcher paper, topic oriented)
- Word Puzzles (Sudoku, X-Word, crosswords)
- Pane It, Retain It (3 x 3 grid for illustrating up to nine vocabulary words)
- Hands-On (craft, content related, skill related, materials prep)
- Journaling (article response, individual or partner, reading response, picture prompts)
- Create/Update Portfolio (SLC preparation, organize binder)
- Make-Up Work/Viewing Station
- Daily Oral Analogies/Language/Geography/Vocabulary (Dailies published by Great Source)
- Games (Scrabble, Risk, Gestures)
- Assignment Sheet/Planner
- Flash Cards
- Word Play (Mad-Libs, self-selected words)
- Mind Benders
- Daily Quote and Response
- P.O.D. (Problem of the Day)
- Mental Whack Challenge
- Peer Tutoring
- Writing Summaries
- Add Movement (when completed with an activity)
- Classroom Mural
- Class ABC Book (any topic, a letter per student)
- Computer Access (tessellations, setgame.com, keyboarding practice)
- Construct Mobiles
- Media Center (research on topical explorations)
- Bulletin Board Design (group work)
- Sketch to Stretch

Language Arts:

- Silent Reading/Partner Reading

- Handwriting Designs/Calligraphy Center
- Writing Activities (recipes, poems)
- Daily Five (read to self, read to someone, listen to someone read, write, word study)
- Squiggles (put a squiggle on the board and have students create an object from it)
- Parts of Speech Scavenger Hunt (from student writing)
- Publishing Center
- Free Write Center
- Performing Arts Center (poetry, skits, Reader's Theater, provide a trunk of simple props)
- Write a Letter to a Character

Science:

- Science Notebooks
- Close Observations

Math:

- Yahtzee (math)
- Mad Minutes
- Manipulatives Challenge (pattern blocks)
- Dating Game (create a series of computations with a target number)
- Scale and Proportion Drawings
- Number Scavenger Hunt (with magazines)
- Graphing Practice
- Find the Area of Mathematical Shapes
- Human Number Line

Social Studies:

- Magazines/Newspapers/Current Events (National Geographic for Kids)
- Primary Document Center
- Interpreting Charts and Graphs
- Political Cartoons Discussion Groups
- Map of the Month
- Absolute/Relative Location Practice