

# Rebecca Sitton's APPLESEED



PLANT THE SEEDS TO GROW SPELLING AND WORD-SKILL LITERACY.

## Presidential Word Work for Upper Grades

Holidays present a wonderful opportunity to interest students in some new and fresh word skills activities. For older students, President's Day is also a perfect time to discuss the current presidential race and the upcoming election.

### President-Themed Word Skills

- 🍎 Ask students to identify their favorite Republican or Democratic candidate. For each of the letters in the name they chose, instruct students to come up with a word that begins with that letter. The words can be associated with their candidate, or with the presidential campaign. These words should then be written on index cards, individual pieces of paper, or card stock. For example, Barack Obama's name might yield the following new words: build, African American, race, authentic, change, knowledgeable, oil, balanced, America, mindful, advocate.

Ask students to:

- 🍎 sort their words by such categories as political terms and/or issues, biographical information, personality or physical descriptors of the person (for vocabulary building).
  - 🍎 add prefixes or suffixes.
  - 🍎 choose four words to write into one meaningful sentence.
  - 🍎 choose six words and list a synonym or antonym for each word (build ~ create, or build ~ destroy).
  - 🍎 identify words that have more than one meaning such as oil or race. Write each word in a sentence. Be sure each sentence demonstrates an understanding of each meaning.
  - 🍎 sort words according to their part of speech (some words may function as more than one part of speech).
- 🍎 Use a Venn diagram to compare George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's similarities and differences. Write the similarities in the center of two intersecting circles (both presidents were over six feet tall, both presidents' pictures can be found on dollar bills).  
If students lack sufficient background knowledge in this area, you may want to supply them with a brief biography for each president, or encourage them to research the presidents' lives on their own.
  - 🍎 Have students work in small groups to make a Fact Card about President Washington and/or President Lincoln. Fact cards might include such information as the date and place of birth and death, the name of spouses and children, the year the president was elected, etc.

You may want to structure this activity to include time for students to research the necessary information.

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## Presidential Word Work for Upper Grades (continued)

### **Writing Activity**

In your opinion, what important qualities should a person running for President of the United States have? Provide support for your choices.

- 🍇 To accommodate students of varying abilities, you may want to guide responses by exploring what the word qualities could mean. For example:
- 🍇 qualifications (i.e., age, country of birth)
  - 🍇 personal characteristics (intelligence, good decision-making abilities, excellent people skills, etc.)