

Program Overview

Twelve fast-paced lesson plans form the instructional framework of *Word Forward Level C*. Each lesson begins and ends with a great book. The specific vocabulary building strategies, comprehension strategies, and literary analysis skills matched to the book focus learning.

Lesson Plan

Each unit of study or “Big Idea” teaches one of the four main research-based strategies: Context Clues, Words and Their Parts, Content Words, or Words and Their Histories.

Words from the book support the specific vocabulary building strategy and link to the literary element.

The specific vocabulary building strategy is introduced through a discussion of the meaning of important words from the book, then linked to students’ experiences.

A graphic organizer is provided to help students think visually as they learn to apply the vocabulary building strategy, generating their own examples.

Questions are provided to help students make text-to-self connections and for informal assessment.

Options, including writing, word games, and skill review, are provided to apply strategies in broader contexts and informally assess student learning.

The screenshot shows a lesson plan for the book *The Adventures of Marco Polo* by Russell Freedman. The page is divided into several sections:

- BIG IDEA 3:** Content Words: Vocabulary From This Book. Words About Civilizations: currency, dynasty, empire, humane, imperial, prosperity, sovereign. Words About Travel: canal, emissaries, envoy.
- Introduce Vocabulary Strategy:** BUILD WORD POWER: Engage students' interest by discussing why people are often fascinated by far-away places. HIGHLIGHT CONTENT WORDS: Explain to students out difficult or of Marco Polo, civilization Mar.
- Read the Book:** LINK VOCABULARY AND COMPREHENSION: Explore asking questions in a historical nonfiction book. MODEL AND MONITOR COMPREHENSION: Explain that good readers ask questions to help them clearly what they don't understand.
- Transfer and Expand Learning:** APPLY THE STRATEGIES: Challenge students with one or more of these options to demonstrate learning. Content Words: Build on the Big Idea. Ask Questions: If students need more help with asking questions, see the comprehension mini-lesson on page 48. Historical Nonfiction: Traveler's Log.

Annotations on the page include:

- A callout box titled "BOOK PITCH!" with a cartoon boy's face and a quote: "He was a sovereign like no other. Kublai Khan was the sovereign, or ruler, of a great empire stretching thousands of miles across Asia. His kingdom contained unimaginable riches and wondrous signs. Or at least that's what Marco Polo believed when he set out on a journey to meet Khan in 1271. What will happen when Marco Polo finally meets him?"
- A sidebar titled "WORDS ABOUT CIVILIZATIONS" with sections for "Professional Development" (Roots of Western Civilization), "English Language Learners" (In Other Words), and "Student Reading" (Invite students to revisit the book).
- A graphic organizer titled "Citizens" and "Buildings" is shown at the bottom left.

A motivating book pitch uses vocabulary words and sets a purpose for reading.

This part of the lesson helps students think like expert readers. It links the vocabulary strategy to the comprehension strategy. With the support of the Teacher Book Notes (see p. 9) prompts are provided for an interactive read-aloud experience.

Professional development is enhanced through notes on vocabulary development.

Book-specific suggestions for supporting English language learners are provided.

Students revisit the book and apply strategies independently.