

## Words Across the Globe

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**Objective:** Students will make connections between vocabulary words and physical locations across the globe using a self-directed criteria.

**Overview:** In order to help low-progress readers “own” difficult vocabulary words, *Words Across the Globe* was developed as an interactive, technology-based activity to supplement classroom instruction.



**An example of how it works:** When asked to write sentences using their vocabulary words, students often attempt to make a connection between the word and their own experience. For example, if the vocabulary word is “generous,” the student may write, “Sam is generous, he gives us free candy at his store.” This type of cognitive discourse lends itself perfectly to the *Words Across the Globe* project.

**Suggestions for implementation in the classroom:** On a basic level, the student can locate a place, such as their own school, a research laboratory, or local university where dissections may occur. The student would then create a “placemark” in Google Earth with the word, its definition, and a statement that reinforces their reasoning for choosing that location (e.g., “Scientists at Springfield University Laboratory dissect invertebrates in order to study their life functions.”).

In addition, all words have an etymology—a historical development that has changed over time. For example, the word “dissect” comes from the Latin verb “dissecare,” which means “to cut,” and dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

On a higher level, the student may research the etymology of the word on the Internet to discover why the word was created in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. They can then locate a certain city where doctors or scientists were experimenting with dissections. At this level, the students will be free to use their own criteria in determining where to place the word on the globe; they only need to provide adequate reasoning.

Pictures and hyperlinks (e.g., to pronunciation, videos, other Web sites for additional information, etc) can (and should be) be included in the Google Earth placemark description. When pulling a graphic into the description window, a link should also be provided to the original source.

**Assessment Rubrics may include:** Appropriate definition, Reasoning for placement, Use of Google Earth description field (definition, used in a sentence, graphic, audio pronunciation, links to related online resources), Saving, and Presenting the project.