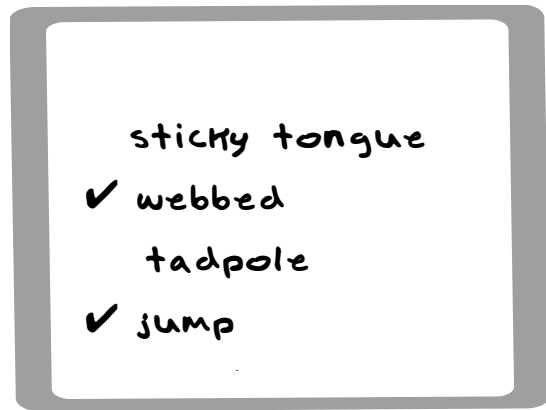
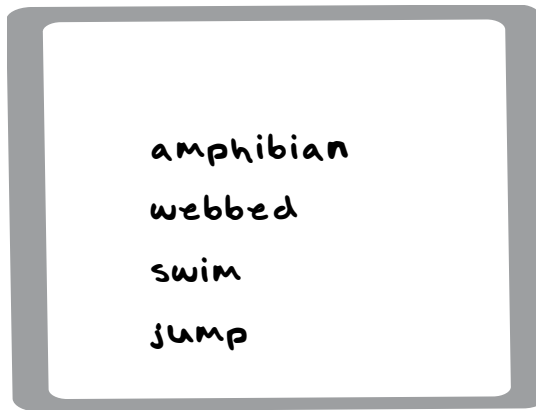




Creating an Ongoing Word Bank for a Unit

- Step 1:** Introduce the topic and begin learning about it via reading, hands on experiences, multimedia, etc.
- Step 2:** Ask students to list as many words as they know so far about the topic on their white boards. Have students share these out to create a whole class brainstorm using the “no repeats” strategy. As each student shares their list, others check off the words they have on their lists which are the same, so that when it is their turn, they only share the words that haven’t been posted yet. Take care to call on the students with the fewest words first, so that they may shine, and the eager beavers will keep on working for you just so they can see their words posted.



- Step 3:** Ask students to look over the big list and think of categories the words could be divided into, then re-build the list using those categories. Leave space so that this list can grow with student input throughout the unit of study.
- Step 4:** Ask students to illustrate the list by adding PostIt® sketches directly onto the chart.



Word banks are covered in the Common Core Standards under “domain-specific” language in **Reading RI 4** and **Writing W2** and **Language L6**

