Activity Title: Charting a Colorful Course

Objective(s):
The Learner will be able to brainstorm responses to questions about the content they will learn in the upcoming unit.

The Learner will be able to work collaboratively with group members.

The Learner will be able to synthesize classmates’ responses into categories.

Materials:
Five large sheets of flip chart or butcher paper
Different color markers for each group

Procedure:
*Prior to the lesson the teacher must create five questions about the content students will be learning. One question should be written on each large sheet of paper and posted at different points around the room. The teacher should group students into five groups. Charting a Colorful Course should be used as an engagement activity to activate prior knowledge.
1. Explain the activity to the students in its entirety.
   a. Each group will have a different color marker.
   b. Each group will be assigned to begin at one of the five charts.
   c. While in front of their charts, the groups will brainstorm answers to the posted questions with designated reporters recording the groups’ responses.
   d. Give the groups two minutes to complete their responses then signal them to move to the right to the next chart.
   e. Repeat letters c and d until groups have brainstormed answers to all five questions.
   f. Have groups return to their original charts where they should group related responses into categories and remove repeated concepts.
   g. Have designated group speakers summarize what the class knows about their questions.
2. Pose an example question to the class.
3. Brainstorm and record responses as a class.
4. Break students into groups and pass out markers.
5. Provide time for groups to designate recorders and speakers.
6. Allow students time to complete activity.

Assessment:
Teacher will assess prior knowledge by observation and will formulate lessons accordingly.

Based on material obtained at Differentiated Instruction Conference, Bowling Green, Ohio, November 18, February 15, April 26, 2004-2005.