Make a Meme: Vocabulary Activity

Big Idea: Planning and execution make the difference between a memorable meme and a forgettable one.

About the Activity
Embellish a video with graphics and text. Position them using the coordinate plane. Learn how to configure objects by changing their properties.

Time: 1 hour
- 10 minutes background
- 20 minutes video production
- 20 minutes coding
- 10 minutes sharing

Standards
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.4
Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7
Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
CCSS.MATH.PRACTICE.MP6 Attend to precision.
CCSS.MATH.PRACTICE.MP7 Look for and make use of structure. CCSS.MATH.PRACTICE.MP8
Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.
NGSS Engineering Practice 8 Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

Background (10 mins)
A meme is a tiny idea that people like and share because it is funny, weird, or gross.

Ever think about where the word “meme” comes from? It’s related to “memory.” Memes are things that are easy to remember! And what kinds of things do you work hard to remember? Vocab words! In this lesson, we’ll make our vocabulary words easy to remember by turning them into memes.

Watch this video as inspiration: https://www.flocabulary.com/ancient-egypt/
**Video Challenge (20 mins)**

In teams, choose a vocabulary word and shoot a short video about it.

- Irrigation
- Polytheism
- Empire
- Ziggurat
- Levee
- City-State

Use the Flocabulary video as inspiration. You don’t have to be too literal. Be interesting!

**Sample ideas:**
- Shoot a page in your social studies book.
- Make some simple paper puppets and move them around with your hands.
- Act out the word in character.
- Film yourself writing or typing the definition.
- Charades!

**Code Challenge (20 mins)**

Add text and effects to your video to make it really memorable. Animate a special effect that goes with the word. Add some cool music. Make sure you’ve conveyed the word and what it means!


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text('I love coding!', 60, 55); Creates text on your video at position (x,y).

text.color = "green"; Changes the color of your text.

text.size = "50px"; Changes the size of your text.

text.font = "Times"; Changes the font of your text. Possible fonts: "Arial", "Comic Sans MS", "cursive", "serif", "monospace"

audio("rock"); Plays music over your video. You can change it to "dance", "electronic", "funk", "rock", or "retro"!
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**Sharing (10 mins)**

Publish the finished memes, and show them one-by-one on the class projector. Have a face-off: which team did each word better? Vote on the most memorable meme. Turn the videos off and have a pop quiz!