

Plenaries

Give a **hint at the start of the lesson** of how the plenary will go. For example:

- tell two pupils at the start of the lesson that they will be responsible for reporting back at the end of the lesson on what was important about it – other pupils can then say whether they agree or disagree and why;
- put the questions you will ask in the plenary on the board at the start of the lesson.

In the plenary, ask **individuals** to:

- write down three facts they have learned in the lesson, then share these with a partner and add to the list;
- write a sentence that summarises the lesson, then share with a partner;
- write key words and definitions in a subject dictionary;
- use writing or talking frames designed for the plenary, such as 'What I found difficult or easy was ...', 'The most important part was ...', 'I need to improve on ...'.

Ask pupils in **pairs or small groups** to:

- make sets of cards for the technical vocabulary used in a lesson, putting words on one set and definitions on another, then use the cards to play Pelmanism;
- compose two sentences that describe the main ideas of the lesson;
- identify three ways in which ideas in the lesson might be used in other subjects;
- design one page for a PowerPoint presentation, with a heading and three bullet points summarising an aspect of the lesson.

Occasionally use **drama strategies**. For example:

- put a pupil in a 'hot seat' as an expert or character, and invite the rest of the class to ask questions;
- ask a group of four pupils to create a 'still frame' to show a key idea from the lesson.
- For **homework**, ask pupils to:
- prepare a quiz on the theme of the lesson to try out on the rest of the class;
- write a description of the lesson, what they most liked about it (and least), what they found easiest about it, and what was most difficult;
- design an exercise for a textbook to follow up work done in the lesson;
- design a web page to help remember one aspect of the lesson – when you review the homework, ask why the pupils thought the aspect was important.