Key Words and how to use them Lesson

Essential Question:
What are keywords and how do they help me find what I am looking for?

Objectives:
Students will:
        -understand the job of a keyword
        -learn a step by step process for selecting keywords
        -use their knowledge of how to use keywords to search for what they are looking for on the internet

Materials:
-Chart Paper and Markers
-Computer / Projector or suitable technology to show students search engine

Lesson Activities:
1. Tell students you are thinking about getting a new pet and write words dog and wolf on the chart paper.

2. Ask: which of these animals would make a better pet?

    1. Can you name why a dog would make a good pet? (Record responses on the chart paper under the word dog.)

    2. Can you name why a wolf would not make a good pet? (Record responses on the chart paper under the word wolf.)

3. Have students come up with questions they have about having a dog as a pet and write them on the chart paper.

4. Ask: Where could we find answers to these questions that we have? (Students may have answers such as ask someone who has a dog for a pet, in a book, or on the internet.)

5. Tell students that when we look for something on the internet or in a book we are searching for the answer. This is going to be a very important word that will help us find the answers.

6. Explain to students that to do a search on the Internet you need to use keywords. Write the word keywords on the board break apart the word to key and words. Explain that the word key has many meanings but in this case it mean something that is very important.

7. Tell the students that you are trying to convince the principal to let you have a classroom pet.. To convince him you need to do some research to get the facts. You want to find out what pets would be good at school and how to take care of them in the school.

8. Guide the students to come up with questions we would ask about having a class pet some examples could be:

   1. What are good class pets

   2. What do they need to live

   3. How do you take care of them and

   4. What do they eat

9. Then have students decide what their keywords would be in those questions. Have students turn in talk to discuss what they would do next with their keywords.

10. If students have experience using search engines send them off in pairs to work together to search their keywords in the search engine and find more information about a class pet they would like to have. If students do not have experience with search engines do this whole group and explicitly model how to use a search engine

11. To wrap up ask students the following questions to gauge their understanding of the lesson objectives.

    1. What are keywords?

    2. Why are keywords important?

    3. How can you decide the best keywords for your topic?