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About This Book

Advanced vocabulary words and their meanings are “caught” rather than “taught” through the activities in Crypt-O-Words. On each page, students are invited to guess a vocabulary word by looking for clues within the text or graphics at the top of the page. Then, the guess is confirmed, or the word determined, and students follow directions to solve a puzzle, cipher, or word game that reinforces the word’s meaning. Activities promote multiple exposures to many advanced vocabulary words and incorporate famous quotes, science, historical references, analogies, and more.

Vocabulary enrichment has never been so engaging and fun!

Teaching Suggestions

These enrichment activities may be used in many ways to supplement language arts and multidisciplinary instruction (see below). In the teacher notes you will find specific TIPS and HINTS for helping students when they’re stumped and for extending learning. The goal is to make the learning fun and engaging so that students are challenged without feeling they are being tested. Encourage students to create their own Crypt-O-Word sets to enhance their vocabularies beyond the thirty words included in this book.

You might like to:

- implement a “Word of the Week” enrichment program
- offer these activities to students who would benefit from advanced vocabulary, perhaps as a form of differentiation for weekly classwork or homework
- create a center or bulletin board entitled Crypt-O-Words with copies of these pages for students to work on as they have time. Student-created Crypt-O-Words could be displayed here.

	Extra Hints to Provide Students	Suggestions for Extended Learning
#7	<u>Clues in text:</u> <i>good with words; expresses himself clearly; good debater</i> Read the poem aloud to emphasize the rhythm of a limerick. Assist students in pronouncing the word as a verb (ar-TIC-u-layt) and as an adjective (ar-TIC yuh- lit).	Turn the word-making activity (bottom p. 13) into a game by setting a timer for 5 minutes and having students compete to make the most words in the allotted time.
#8	<u>Clues in text:</u> <i>glowing; radiant; light; brilliant; lustrous; vivid; gleaming</i> Provide the first letter of the word as a hint. Assist students with the Pigpen Cipher if necessary.	Have students create a collage of luminaries which could include literal ones (e.g., candles) as well as people who have inspired others in their fields.
#9	<u>Clues in text:</u> <i>determined; fixed; unwavering</i> Assist students with spelling as they complete the crossword, if necessary.	Investigate other “ghost ships” such as the <i>Mary Celeste</i> and the <i>Sea Bird</i> .
#10	<u>Clues in text:</u> <i>retreat; refuge; sanctuary; safe place</i>	Students might enjoy learning more about local animal sanctuaries and how they are managed.
<p>TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE: Assist students with spelling or provide a list of the first ten Crypt-O-Words is necessary.</p> <p>VOCABULARY CHARADES: DO NOT SHOW STUDENTS PAGE 22 UNTIL AFTER YOU PLAY THE GAME.</p> <p>This activity is played like the game Charades. Choose a volunteer or pair of volunteers to act out a phrase (see photo). The volunteer(s) will hold up fingers to indicate how many Crypt-O-Words are in the phrase. Students raise their hands to guess. Students should offer a guess in the form of a complete sentence. The first student to come reasonably close to the correct phrase is given the option of being next to act out a phrase. After the game, pass out page 22 and have students fill in the blanks to complete the short story.</p>		
#11	<u>Clues in text:</u> <i>She ate, and she ate, and she ate; She read and she read and she read</i> Students may not know that a “leaf” can be a sheet of paper or a page of a book.	Introduce the term <i>neologism</i> and search to see if the words students create in the final activity have already been coined by others. Provide Greek/Latin roots to assist in creating new words.
#12	<u>Clues in text:</u> <i>ridiculous; utterly absurd; make no sense</i>	Share the history of ideas and inventions that were considered absurd or just fads. Some examples include <i>umbrellas, Slinky toys, the bicycle</i> .
#13	<u>Clues in text:</u> Read the clue, emphasizing the word capital: “It would be a capital idea to look at certain letters.” <u>Secret Message Hint:</u> Tell students each letter represents another letter that’s close to it in the alphabet.	Have students create their own Scrambled Words puzzles using other vocabulary words.
#14	<u>Clues in text:</u> <i>nervous; anxious; first day; scared</i> Assist students by crossing out the first two letters of each pair in the first puzzle.	Have students write short personal narratives about times when they felt trepidation or share examples from literature and film.
#15	<u>Clues in text:</u> <i>rise; move up; climb;</i> the position of the letters in the box (ascending) Review the “rules” for crossing out.	Challenge students to solve the final math problem with six, seven, and eight steps. Is there any pattern in the number of ways found as one step is added?

Two <u>luminous</u> objects in the sky are <u>adjacent</u> to one another.	A pilot is <u>articulates</u> directions while flying through <u>turbulent</u> weather.	A driver is <u>resolute</u> in getting to his destination but is <u>impeded</u> by traffic.
A <u>lackadaisical</u> dreamer has found a <u>haven</u> .	A <u>diligent</u> worker is striving to <u>adhere</u> a poster to the wall.	

CRYPT-O-WORD #5

Two officers are interviewing a homeowner and writing a report to record his complaint. According to him, pedestrians frequently gather at the end of his driveway and *block* him from backing out. The crowds of people gathering to talk at the end of his driveway *prevent* him from leaving freely.

- A.** Crypt-O-Word #5 is a 6-letter word hidden in one of the lines above. The words in *italics* are hints. The letters of the Crypt-O-Word are in order from left to right as in this example:

After you write that memo, deliver it right away.

MODEL

The words listed in the Word Bank below are things found in many neighborhoods. Cross out those words in the word search puzzle (some words will share letters). Write the first thirteen letters not crossed off in the HIDDEN MESSAGE box below. Copy them in order, from left to right, top to bottom. Crypt-O-Word #5 will be revealed!

L H I G S N S B S S
 M E O E R T T A I E
 W A E U R A S N D N
 S R I E S K S K E I
 T B E L C E O S W L
 I T U U B A S M A R
 P E R R D O R E L E
 Q T H N H T X S K W
 L O O H C S D E S O
 S T O P S I G N S P

WORD BANK

BANK	HOUSES
TREES	CARS
TRUCKS	STREET
SCHOOL	GRASS
STOP SIGN	POWER LINES
SHRUBS	MAILBOXES
SIDEWALKS	

HIDDEN MESSAGE

Crypt-O-Word #5 is

_ _ _ _ _

Circle the Crypt-O-Word in the text at the top of the page.

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Solve The Puzzle

B. Follow directions to fill in the blanks and columns to find a synonym for Crypt-O-Word #5.

Fill in the word	Drop 2 letters		Fill in a second word using the remaining letters
a small, round roofed structure designed to provide shade and rest _____			to stare and steadily at someone or something _____
begins _____			a bright glowing mass visible in the sky (e.g. Earth's Sun) _____
to remove the paper from a gift or package _____			chess piece with the smallest size and value _____
A small area sewn into clothing to hold items _____			prod (such as with a finger or stick) _____

Unscramble the letters you dropped to make a synonym for the Crypt-O-Word.

Working With Synonyms

C. Begin this puzzle by writing the letters of Crypt-O-Word #5 in the circles, in order from top to bottom. The words in bold letters have similar meanings to the Crypt-O-Word. Use the clues to fill in each row with a 6-letter word.

CLUES

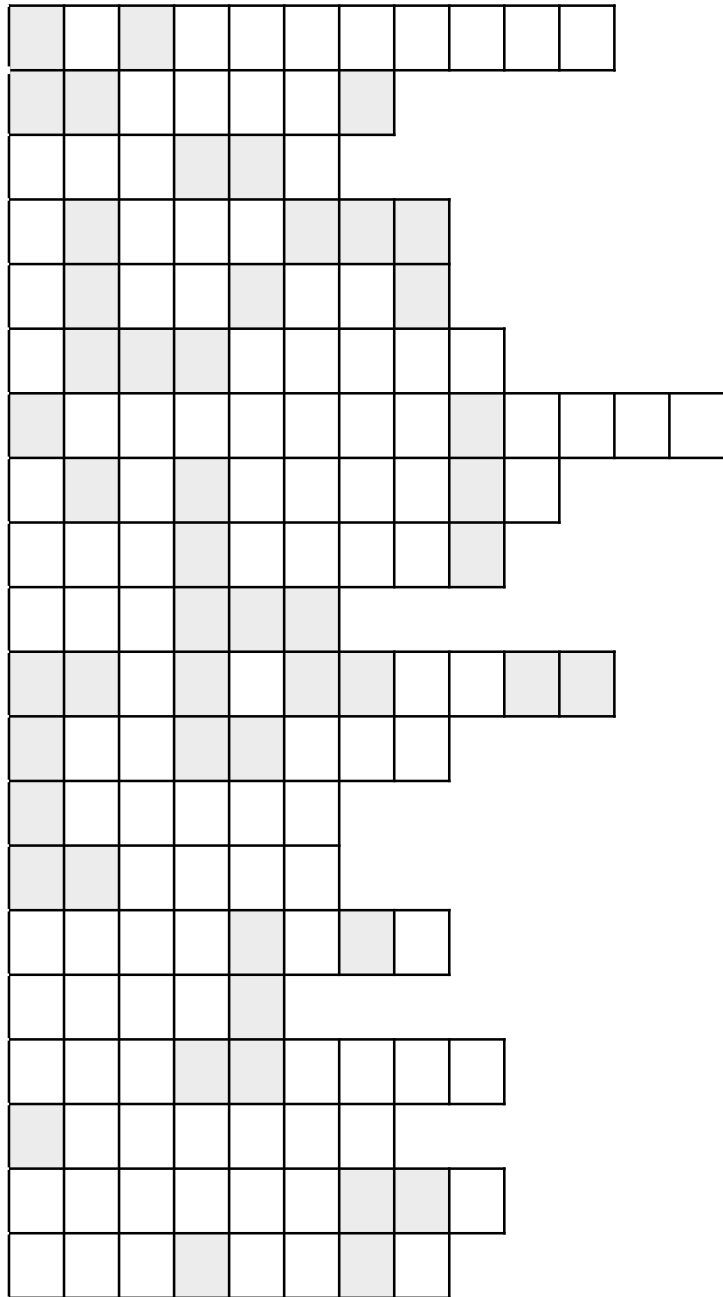
- If this is heavy, it may **delay** travelers on the highway.
- In a club or organization, disagreements among these people can **hinder** progress.
- Bad weather can **interfere** with these if the games and decorations are set up outdoors.
- This can **deter** students from attending class until they can see a doctor.
- It may be difficult to get a table, and service may **slow down**, in a restaurant described as this.
- If something **obstructs** a person's airway, it's difficult for them to do this.

1						○	
2			○				
3	○						
4					○		
5							○
6			○				

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Directions: Fill in the letters of each Crypt-O-Word next to its meaning. Then, complete the quote below by writing from left to right and top to bottom, the letters that are in the shaded boxes.

1. dread
2. reveal; tell
3. rise; go up
4. outdated
5. hard-working
6. ravenous
7. sluggish
8. put into words
9. absurd; ridiculous
10. prevent; block
11. echo
12. radiant; glowing
13. beginner
14. stick to
15. determined
16. retreat
17. stormy; chaotic
18. roam; twist and turn
19. random
20. next to



“_H_ _FF_R_CE _W_EN THE R_H_ W_D
 AND THE _MO_T _GH_ WORD _TH_ _IFF_ _C_
 _W_EN _GHT_I_G _N_ A _IGH_ NI_G _G.”
 - _ _ _ _ K TW_I_

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