

Learning together

Understanding New Words

ACTIVITY #14

SEQUENCE: STRATEGY WHILE READING
2ND CYCLE — PRIMARY

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Purpose of the activity

An important factor to consider in order to understand a text is vocabulary, or the meaning of words. The goal of this activity is to help you better understand the meaning of new words based on words from the same family.



Relevance of the activity

To understand a text, a child must know about 95% of the words. Generally, the texts proposed to students consist of words that are known orally. But it is not uncommon to encounter them again, especially when learning to read. When this happens, it is important to take a moment to think about the meaning of these words. Thus, we enrich our vocabulary, and we also promote understanding.



Supplies

To do this activity, you can use:

- the text in the appendix
- the school texts that your child must read
- a book at their reading level



LET'S GO!

Explain the activity:



Today, we will learn to understand a new word based on words from the same family.

Explain why:



To understand a text that you read, you must know almost all the words. To understand the meaning of a new word, you can...

- reread the sentence or part of the text
- check the words that are before or after
- **make links between small parts of words (what we are about to do today)**

It is therefore important to stop and question the meaning of the new words we encounter.

Explain when:



Whenever you read a word that is new to you, that you have never encountered orally, you must stop and check the meaning of that word.

Try it together:



As you know, to understand the meaning of a new word, you can use different strategies such as:

- look at the words that are before or after;
- look at the little words in the big words;
- reread the sentence or paragraph.



Did you know?

We can also look at the small units of meaning that are present in words to help us recognize words from the same family.

Let's read the paragraph on tropical forests (See appendix).

- As you can see, several words are in **blue**:

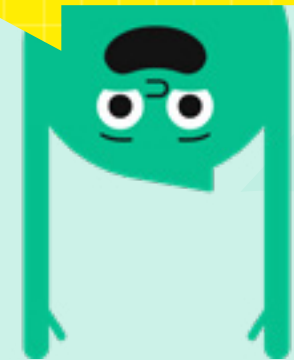
They may be words you have never encountered before. In fact, these words are part of the same family and have a common base. This base always has the same meaning. It is around it that small units of meaning are added, either before or after the base to bring precision.

Here are some examples :

- We talk about the **tropical** forest, which reminds me of a word from the same family: **tropic**, a place where it is hot.
- For the word **shiny**, I notice that it ends with a -y. The end of the word indicates that we are talking about a characteristic of foliage. For the word **shiny**, it means something that **shines**: the foliage shines because of the humidity of the jungle (like a shiny green...).
- I can do the same thing for the word **deforestation**: I know that the little de at the beginning of the word means the opposite of something related to the forest. The last part of the word **tion**, refers to an action. I think the word deforestation means destroying the forest or cutting down the trees in a forest, something like that.

Quick Tips!

This activity is particularly effective when an adult is reading aloud. You stop at words that you think are difficult for your child to understand.



A Voyage Through Forests

Dear Adventurers, come and discover our beautiful forests!
Forests are like large families of trees, each with its own mystery.
Slip on your boots and get ready for an incredible adventure!

Rainforests

Welcome to the rainforest! Imagine you are walking through a **jungle** where the trees are so high that they block the sun's rays. Here, there is a lot of **shiny foliage**. Did you know that rainforests are located **near the equator**, where it is always hot and humid? They are home to **exotic** animals such as monkeys and colourful parrots. Unfortunately, **tropical** forests and the animals that live in them are not **immune** to **deforestation**.



Boreal forests

Now imagine a forest where the trees are covered with sparkling snow. Also called taiga, the boreal forest is found in countries where it is very cold, such as **northern Canada and Russia**. In these forests, we find **conifers** such as firs, spruce and tamaracks. Because of climate change, snow is melting earlier, affecting the growth of trees and shrubs, as well as the way of life of the animals that live there, such as black bears.



Temperate forests

We end our voyage in the temperate forests. Here we find **conifers, but also hardwoods** such as maple and birch. This type of forest is found in **Europe and North America**. The colour of the trees' leaves changes with the seasons, putting on a spectacular show, especially in autumn. Throughout the year, you see different species of bird, squirrel and deer. Temperate forests are increasingly affected by forest fires because the weather is warmer and there is less precipitation.



Lastly, forests give us fresh air and are home to a wide variety of animals, both big and small! They're the lungs of the Earth. By taking care of our planet and planting trees, we can help protect these beautiful places for generations to come.



See you soon for another adventure,
Jean Bouleau