

Growing Colorful Words

Description: Participants will be on relay race teams finding colorful words to fill their trees.

Purpose: To help participants to grow their vocabulary and enhance record book writing skills.

Time: 10-15 minutes

Age/Grade level: Grades 2 and up

Suggestions: To prepare, gather all supplies. Print and cut out the leaf words on colorful paper. Print and cut out the base/root words on plain, white paper. Trees can be printed with the black line version and colored in by younger members or print the full color version.

Materials: Base/root words, Colorful leaf words, Trees (1 per team)

What to Do:

1. Introduce the activity by asking the following questions:
Do you ever sit and stare at a blank record book section and just cannot find the right word? Do you find yourself continually saying “it was fun?” Are you using those same plain, simple and dull words?
Today’s game will help us grow our vocabulary and make writing easier. We will be looking for synonyms to grow a word tree.
2. Depending on your club size, divide members into teams with assorted ages and at least 5 members per team. You should have at least two teams and a tree for each team. Place the colorful leaf words in a pile face up where members can easily access such on the floor or table top. Place the base/root words face down in another location or in a hat.
3. Each team will get a tree and line up. This will be played in relay race style where only one team member can go to the “leaf pile” to search for a colorful word. When they return to the team, then that player will tag the next person in line to go find matching words in the “leaf pile.” Place the root/base word at the roots of the tree and then fill the branches with colorful new synonyms.
 - a. First to Five
The first team to find five new colorful words to put on their tree wins.
 - b. Most in a minute
The team with the most correct words on their team tree in one minute wins.
4. Keep score and play as many rounds as desired. Return all the colorful word leaves to the pile, but keep the root/base words out so that a team does not get a repeat.

Reflection Questions:

1. What words did you like?
2. Which words do you think will be good to use in your record book?
3. Where else would some of these words come in handy to use?
4. Where can you find synonyms and antonyms?

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Source: *New Roget's Thesaurus*. 1989. P.S.I. & Associates, Inc. Miami, Florida.

Answer Key:

BIG

huge vast enormous immense large monstrous great massive grand giant

LITTLE

Small minute puny dwarf miniature lean speck pygmy

HAPPY

Glad joy delight pleasure glee merry felicity bliss enchantment golden age merry

BAD

Painful discomfort annoyance irritation infliction plague bother trouble grief woe misery

ODD

ludicrous ridiculous preposterous extravagant strange bombastic eccentric strange fantastic awkward

HOPE

Trust confidence reliance faith assurance security expectation promise prospect optimism

BRAVE

Courage valor bold spirited gallant confidence fearless fortitude hero chivalry

FUN

Amusement entertainment pleasant laugh game play joyous festive jubilee cheer frolic exciting

HARD

Challenging difficult harsh severe tough laborious troublesome complex struggle puzzle

SKILL

Clever ability genius gift forte knack expert aptitude qualification craft

SAFETY

Refuge asylum sanctuary retreat hiding-place harbor haven shield covert

COOL

Neat interesting wonderful awesome amazing unique fabulous legendary mythical astonishing extraordinary

Colorful Words for leaves (Cut apart)

lean	huge	preposterous
grand	giant	extensive
Small	enormous	miniature
dwarf	immense	pleasure
speck	large	irritation
pygmy	monstrous	delicious
puny	merry	enchantment
glee	felicity	golden age
minute	great	extravagant
glad	massive	annoyance
joy	delight	painful
bliss	discomfort	bombastic
weary	grief	infliction
plague	confidence	frolic
chivalry	eccentric	reliance
play	courage	strange
hero	faith	assurance
bold	strange	fantastic

valor	misery	awkward
woe	trouble	security
bother	spirited	expectation
trust	ridiculous	ludicrous
promise	optimism	prospect
cheer	gallant	fortitude
clever	fearless	confidence
ability	refuge	amusement
genius	asylum	challenging
gift	exciting	entertainment
neat	pleasant	interesting
laugh	wonderful	awesome
game	craft	covert
forte	expert	troublesome
knack	joyous	struggle
festive	jubilee	laborious
difficult	severe	hiding-place
harsh	harbor	qualification

puzzle	aptitude	extraordinary
tough	complex	astonishing
haven	sanctuary	mythical
shield	fabulous	legendary
retreat	unique	amazing

Root Words (Cut apart)

BIG SKILL BRAVE

BAD HAPPY HARD

FUN HOPE SAFETY

ODD LITTLE COOL



