



**VOCABULARY AND
CONCEPT
DEVELOPMENT**

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2000 NAEP: FOURTH-GRADE TEXTS

Blue Crabs

Crabs are arthropods, a very large group of animals that have an external skeleton and jointed legs. Other kinds of arthropods are insects, spiders, and centipedes. Blue crabs belong to a particular arthropod group called crustaceans. Crustaceans are abundant in the ocean, just as insects are on land.

A Brick to Cuddle up to

Imagine shivering on a cold winter's night. The tip of your nose tingles in the frosty air. Finally, you climb into bed and find the toasty treat you have been waiting for—your very own hot brick.

If you had lived in colonial days,

Blue Crabs

topic-specific

*Scientific words--
not specific to
arthropods*

Adjectives

Nouns

Verbs

arthropod
Callinectes
sapidus
crustaceans
centipedes
spiders
jointed
crabbing

appearance
adult
armor
fisherman
fourteen
nephew
Jersey
pilings
Puddles
weekend

avoid
absorbing
belong
clinging
defend
entered
escape
increases
injured
outstretched
prevent
stretching
transfers
undergoes
wrinkled

appropriate
abundant
active
commercial
delicious
eighty
latin
ninety
normal
painful
shallow
thirty
transparent
usable

scientific
predator
larvae
external
female
fertilize
dormant
molting
raccoons
alligator
baited
abdomen
seaweed

Adverbs

seriously
saltier
boldly
deeper
beneath

What are the underlying morphological systems of English?

From Calfee & Drum, 1981

GREEK

Specialized words used primarily in sciences

ROMANCE

Technical, sophisticated words used in more formal settings such as literature and textbooks

ANGLO-SAXON

Common, everyday words used in ordinary conversations and in beginning school texts.

	LETTER-SOUND CORRESPON- DENCES	SYLLABLE PATTERNS	MORPHEME PAT- TERNS
ANGLO- SAXON	sad stand thin cap/cape card boil	button sister harvest pilot cabin hundred	cowboy software like/unlike/un- likely get/forget/forget- ting
ROMANCE	direction spatial excellent	inter- intra- -ity	construction erupting conductor
GREEK	phonograph scholar symphony	macro- -graph	microscope chloroplast physiology

From Words by M. K. Henry (1990). Los Gatos, CA: LEX Press.

Latin Roots in Middle-Grade Text

Latin root	Meaning	Examples
dic/dict	to speak, say, tell	dictate, dictator, diction, predict, prediction, dictation, dictum, contradict, edict, indicate, indict, indictment, indication, verdict
duct	lead	duct (tape), conduct, deduct, deduce, introduce, reduce, educate, education, induce, produce, reduction, reduce, aqueduct
form	to shape, fashion	reform, conform, deform, inform, transform, conform, formula, formal, informal, informative, information, uniform, perform

ENGLISH AND SPANISH ROOTS

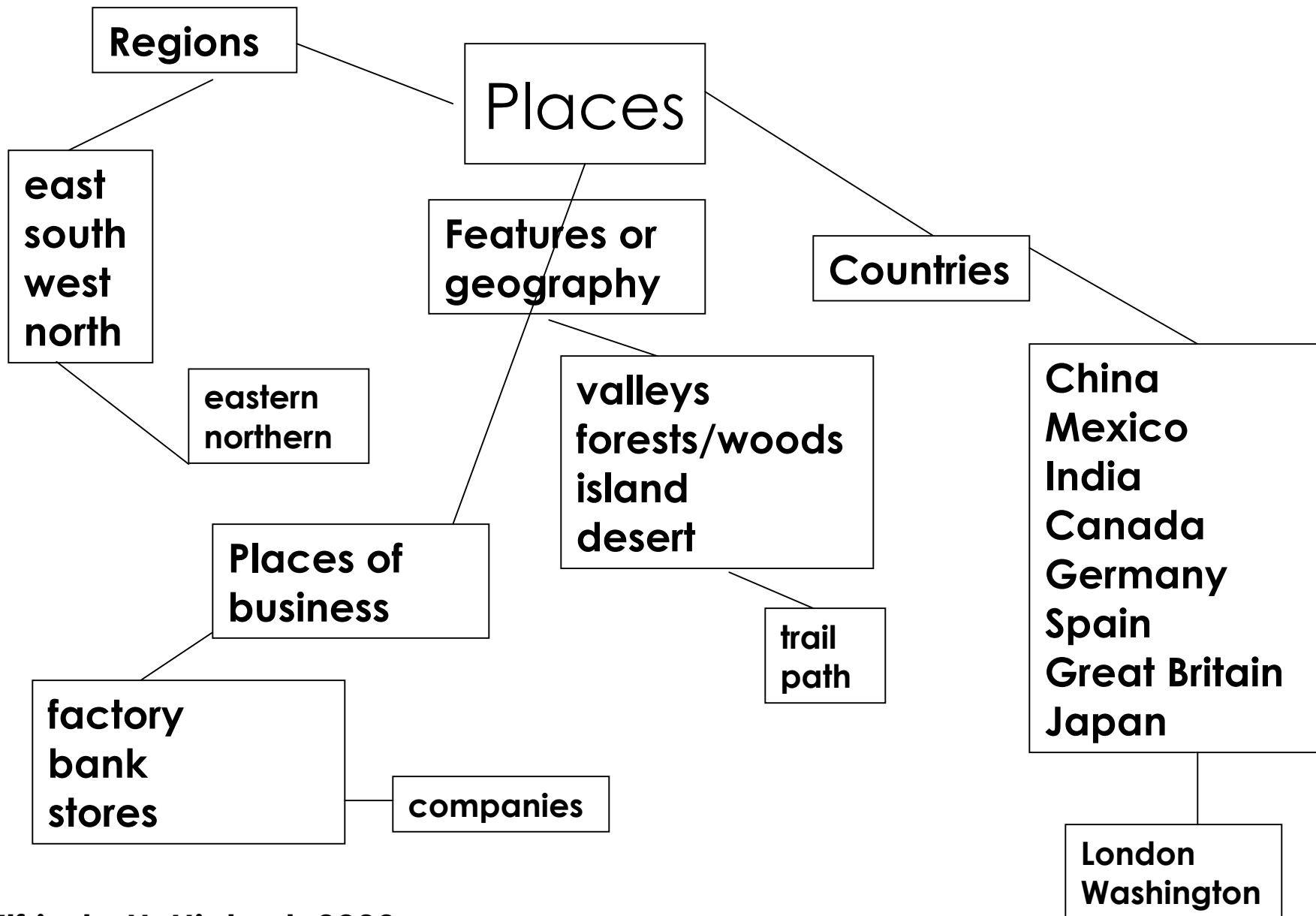
LATIN	SPANISH	ENGLISH LITERARY WORDS	ENGLISH	GERMAN
lavare (to wash)	lavar	lather, lathery, lavender, lavatory, lavation, laver, lavish	wash	waschen
liber (book)	libro	library, librarian, libretto	book	Buch
luna (the moon)	luna	lunar, Luna, lunacy, lunatic, lunation, lunarian phrases: lunar month, lunar year, lunatic fring,	moon	Mond
necessitas	necesitar	necessity, necessary, necessitate, necessarily	need	brauchen
noctis (night)	noche	nocturnal, nocturne, noctuid	night	Nacht
observatio (attention)	observar	observe, observation, observance, obsequious	watch	wachen

Greek Root	Meaning	Examples
auto	self	automation, autograph, autobiography, automobile, automatic
graph, gram	written, drawn	telegram, diagram, grammar, epigram, monogram, telegraph, photograph, phonograph, autograph, graphics

Most Frequent Affixes in Printed School English

Prefix	Accumulative % of all prefixed words	Suffix	Accumulative % of all suffixed words
un	26	s, es	31
re	40	ed	51
in, im, il, ir (not)	51	ing	65
dis	58	ly	72
en, em	61	er, or (agent)	76

(from White, Sowell, & Yanagihara, 1989)



NEW WORDS IN OED: 2001

- 1) **full monty (ful MON-tee)** noun, adjective; Also Full Monty: a) Everything that's needed or possible or appropriate: the whole nine yards. [Origin unknown.]; 2. Complete nudity: [Popularized by the 1997 movie of the same name where a group of unemployed steel-workers turn to stripping.]
"However, I found it easy to get comfortable with the toolkit by building a full-featured NT with all the goodies (the Full Monty configuration)." James Metzger, *Using Windows NT Embedded 4.0*, Dr. Dobb's Journal (San Mateo), Apr 2001.

- 2) **bad hair day (bad hair day)** noun: A day when everything seems to go wrong. [Extension of the literal meaning of the term bad hair day, a day when one's hair is, well, hairy.] "Having survived the first ugly rumours of Friday, - which really was a bad hair day for Dickie - he must have thought that the worst was over. Unfortunately, he was dead wrong as the share price continued to crumble." Ian Kerr, *A Week in the Markets*, Euroweek (London), Oct 9, 1998.

NEW WORDS IN OED, 2001 (continued)

- 3) nutraceutical** (noo-truh-SOO-ti-kuhl) **noun, adjective:** a) A food with (or believed to have) medicinal properties; b) Pertaining to nutraceuticals. [Blend of nutrient and pharmaceutical.] "Some of the new nutraceutical waters will be priced comparably; others will cost about twice as much as plain bottled water." Phil Lempert, Los Angeles Times, Sep 18, 2000.

- 4) retail therapy** (REE-tayl THER-uh-pee) **noun:** Shopping as a means of comfort, relaxation, or cheering up. "Purchase a bauble and count the Rolls parked with motors running while the drivers wait for Madame and the packages from her afternoon blitz of retail therapy." Laura Kelly, Washington Post, Nov 8, 1987.

- 5) webliography** (web-lee-OG-ruh-fee) **noun:** A list of electronic documents on a particular topic. [Blend of Web and bibliography.] "There is an excellent webliography of sites corresponding to the topics discussed." Yapha Nussbaum Mason, School Library Journal (NY), Feb 1999.

	Homo- phone	Multiple Meanings	Idioms	Compound Words
a				
about			how about those Wolverines? It's about time you showed up.	
after				
all	awl (tool)		All systems go	
an	Ann(e)			
and				
are				
as				
at			at once	
be	bee		be in the way	
been	bin			
but	butt			
by	buy bye			
called				
can		can: able to can: metal container		

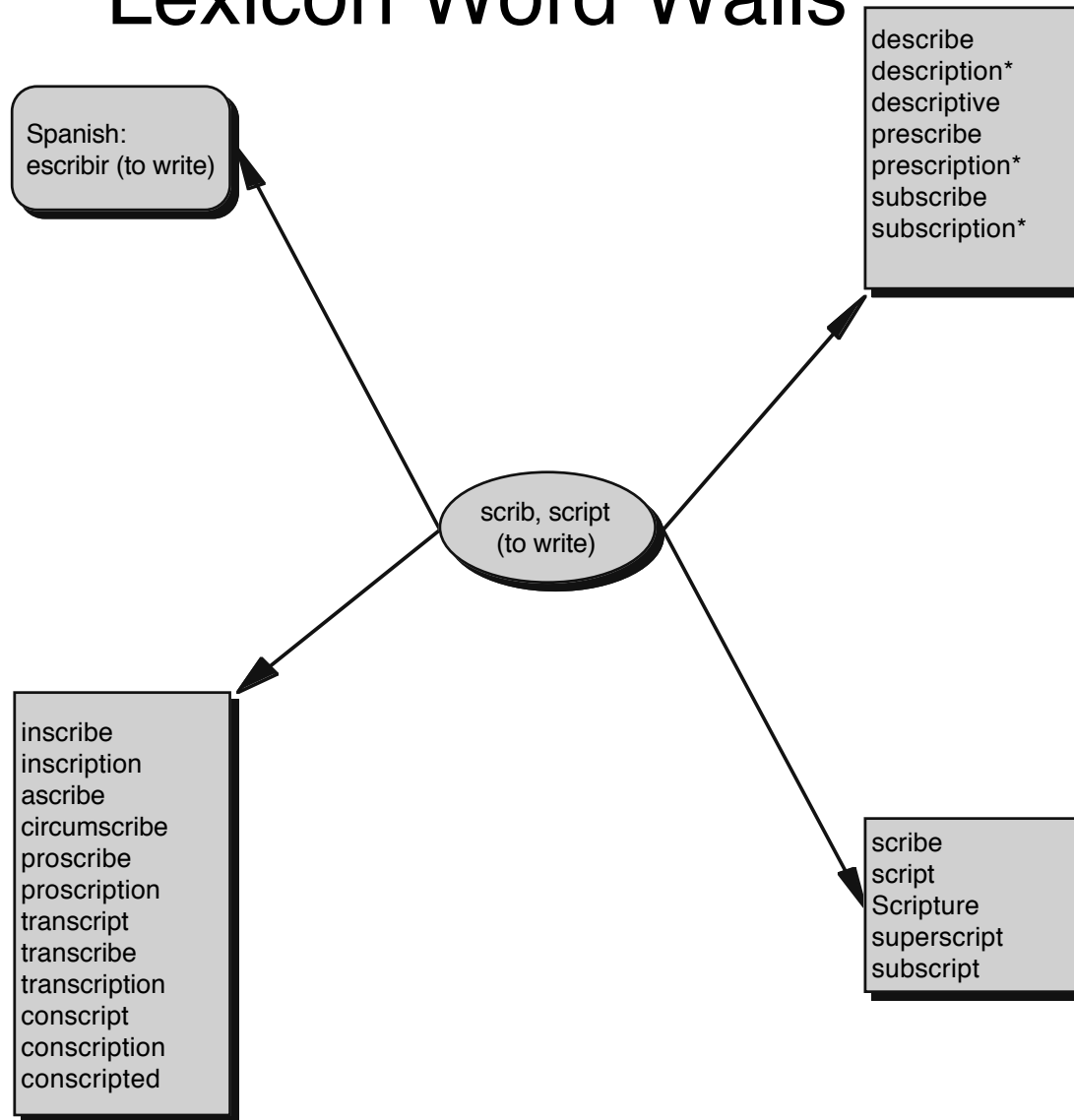
VOCABULARY INSTRUCTION

- **Lessons**
- **Lexicon walls and individual word books**
- **Conversations**
- **Children's literature**

LESSONS

- **Word structure**
- **Categories of words--especially related to common, core topics**
- **Figurative language**

Lexicon Word Walls



Directed Conversations

Guidance for teacher in the reader strategy:

“So far what have we learned about how words work? [Review at least 2 patterns on Word Wall.]
“In today’s story, you’re going to meet a new word family. You’ve seen some words from this family already because our new pattern happens in many important words. Remember the Top 100 words? [Review Top 100 words on Word Wall.] This family has 4 in the Top 100. This family also has an important EXCEPTION. The #1 word on the Top 100 is an EXCEPTION to this family.”

LIST OF BOOKS ABOUT WORDS

- Cleary, Brian P. (1999). A mink, a fink, a skating rink. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, Inc.
- Frasier, Debra (2000). Miss Alaineus. San Diego, CA: Harcourt, Inc.
- Ghigna, Charles (1999). See the yak yak. New York: Random House.
- Gwynne, Fred (1970). The king who rained. New York: Half Moon Books.
- Heller, Ruth (1989). Many luscious lollipops. New York: Puffin Books.
- Heller, Ruth (1998). Fantastic! Wow! And Unreal! New York: Puffin Books.
- Hepworth, Cathi (1992). Antics. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons.
- Levitt, Paul M., Burger, Douglas A., & Guralnick Elissa S. (1985). The weighty word book. Longmont, CO: The Bookmakers Guild, Inc.
- Parish, Peggy (1963). Amedia Bedelia. New York: HarperTrophy.
- Sciedska, Jon, & Smith, Lane (2001). Baloney. New York: Viking.
- Tabor, Nancy Maria Grande (2000). Ve lo que dices/see what you say. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge Publishing.



- **Morphological knowledge**
- **Vocabulary within essential concept groups**
- **Nature of instruction**