

Critical Concepts 6.4A Vocabulary and Word Meaning Lesson

Non Fiction Lesson Plans

Skill Focus: CC.6.4A – Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

Vocabulary: base word, Prefix, suffix, root word, figurative, connotative, technical

December Lesson Objectives:

1. Students will be able to break down unfamiliar vocabulary using prefixes, roots, and suffixes.
2. Students will be able to identify whether a word is figurative, connotative, or technical based on how it is used in the text.
3. Students will be able to use context clues to help determine the meaning of unfamiliar or domain-specific words.
4. Students will be able to complete graphic organizers to show and explain how word parts and context contribute to understanding.
5. Students will be able to explain their reasoning in writing and discussion using academic vocabulary.

Non-Fiction Texts Suggestions for December (text selections are suggestion only, teachers can change the text to fit their classroom needs, if choosing another text it should come from the Educational Epiphany Curriculum)

- *What Is Acne?* by Christian Nordqvist
- *Burger King Uncowed* by Rich Gannis
- *Paying for Farm Subsidies* by Morgan Rose

Graphic Organizer: Refer to your Educational Epiphany Critical Concepts Binder: Graphic Organizers Tab: CC 6.4A pages 33-44 ****This Critical Concept has 3 different types of graphic organizers that can be used, you can choose to differentiate from the lesson plan and use any of the 3 organizers.**

I Do Teacher Model – 15 minutes

Text: *What Is Acne?*

Word Under Study: *Inflammation*

Steps:

1. Distribute the 6.4A-1 Graphic Organizer.
2. Review definitions of *prefix*, *root*, *suffix* and *technical* language.

3. Read the sentence from the article aloud:
"Acne is a skin condition involving the inflammation of sebaceous glands."
4. Think Aloud as you model how to complete the organizer on the board.

Teacher Think Aloud Example:

"Let's break this down. The word *inflammation* has the prefix *in-*, the root *flamm*, and the suffix *-ation*. I know *flamm* has to do with fire or heat, and *-ation* means a process or result. So, this must be a process involving heat or swelling. That makes sense in a medical context. Because the word is part of a health article and used scientifically, I can tell this is a technical word."

Model Response (6.4A-1 Organizer):

Word	Prefix	+ Root/Base	+ Suffix
Inflammation	in-	flamm	-ation

Type of Word	Meaning of Prefix	+ Root	+ Suffix
Technical	into or on	heat/fire	process/result

Determined Meaning:

The process of swelling or irritation in body tissues, often due to infection or injury.

We Do- Guided Practice – 20 minutes

Text: *Burger King Uncowed* by Rich Gannis

Word Under Study: *Uncowed*

1. Display or read the sentence aloud:
"Burger King remained uncowed by the pressure from animal welfare groups."
2. Guide students in completing the 6.4A-1 or 6.4A-2 graphic organizer.
3. Lead a discussion using prompts:
 - What clues help you understand the word?
 - Which part of the word gives us the most information?

Sample Class Response (6.4A-1):

Word	Prefix	+ Root/Base	+ Suffix
Uncowed	un-	cowed	—

Type of Word	Meaning of Prefix	+ Root	+ Suffix
Connotative	not	intimidated	—

Determined Meaning:

Not intimidated or scared; not showing fear in response to pressure.


You Do with Partner - Collaborative Practice - 25 minutes

Text: *Paying for Farm Subsidies* by Morgan Rose

Word Under Study: *Subsidies*

1. In pairs, students find the word *subsidies* in the text and use the 6.4A-2 graphic organizer.
2. Prompt them to use context clues and root/prefix analysis.

Possible Partner Response:

Word	Context Clues	Determined Meaning	Type of Word
Subsidies	"government payments to support farmers"	financial support given by the government	Technical 

You Do Independently - Class Wrap-Up or Homework**Student Task:**

- Choose one unknown or challenging word from *What Causes Acne?*
- Use either 6.4A-1 or 6.4A-2 to analyze and determine the word's meaning.
- Identify if the word is figurative, connotative, or technical and explain why.

Examples students may choose:

Sebum, comedones, bacteria, breakout, oily

Post-Lesson Writing Prompt**Prompt:**

Choose one technical word from the texts we read today. In a paragraph, explain how understanding the parts of the word (prefix, root, and suffix) helped you determine its meaning. Be sure to use context clues from the sentence to support your understanding, and explain why this word is considered technical.