

Context Clues

STANDARD:

3.1.6 Use sentence and word context to find the meaning of unknown words.

Objective:

The students will be given a nonsense word in the middle of a paragraph that represents an actual word. Using the context clues of the short paragraph, they should be able to identify the meaning of the word—or what word it is standing in for—as a class.

Learning Activities:

Part 1: Introduction

1. Instructor begins lesson by asking students if they know what context clues are. Take a few answers before moving on.
2. If a student can answer the question, the instructor elaborates on the definition and application of a context clue. If no student can answer the question, begin by explaining context clues and work from there.
3. After a little bit of a description, the instructor should pull up a set of pictures to build a basis of context clues for the students.
4. The instructor then proceeds to go through each picture one by one asking the students to say what each picture is once they have raised their hand and have been called on.
5. When the student tells the instructor what the object is, the instructor asks them how they came to that conclusion seeing as the picture is not labeled.
6. The instructor then proceeds to explain how using pictures to describe an object is a form of context clue. The instructor explains to the students that context clues are pieces of information in the words or sentences or illustrations that help supply the meaning of the word. Tell students that what they just did, using the pictures or other words, helped them figure out the words computer, car, and dog even though they didn't know what the words were.
7. After going through each picture and asking the appropriate questions for each one, the instructor pulls up a worksheet that the class will complete as a whole.
8. Each student receives their own copy of the worksheet so they are able to follow along as the instructor leads the class through the questions.

Part 2: The Worksheet

1. The instructor explains to the students that they should not panic if they see a word they don't recognize. There is going to be one word in each of the following questions that isn't even a real word and is just taking the place of a real and familiar word.
2. After each student has received a worksheet, the instructor works through question number one by reading it aloud twice for the whole class to hear. The instructor ends by asking the class what word they think would fit perfectly into that paragraph.
3. After the students have raised their hands, one student is called upon. If the student gets the correct word, they are asked how they came to that conclusion.
4. Once they have explained their reasoning behind their answer, the instructor fills in the correct word on the board for the class to see. The class is asked to do the same to their worksheets.
5. The instructor then calls forward the VIP to finish out the worksheet as the instructor continues to read it aloud to the class asking the same question as they go along.
6. When the class reaches the last question, the VIP is asked to return to their seats and the class is asked to work through that question individually.
7. The instructor works their way around the classroom giving help to whomever may need it.
8. When all the students have finished, they are asked to place their pencils down and face the board.
9. The class goes over the last question to check answers.
10. Once the students make sure they have the correct answer, they are invited to put their name at the top of the paper and turn it in to the correct box quietly before returning to their seats so the class can move on to a new topic.

Name: _____

Context Clues: Read each of the paragraphs and figure out what each of the underlined words mean. Write your answer underneath each paragraph.

1. What does the word rutat mean in this paragraph?

A rutat is a simple drawing of part or all of the earth. Most rutats are flat. Rutats show only the important details such as names of places. The rutat key explains what the rutat symbols mean. For example, a black dot may stand for a city.

Rutat= _____

2. What does the word morp mean in this paragraph?

What is today's morp like? Is it hot, rainy, or sunny? It can be fun to make a morp chart. Record the high and low temperatures for each day of the week. Listen or watch a morp report on television or radio to get the prediction for tomorrow's morp!

Morp= _____

3. What does the word feens mean in this paragraph?

John James painted many pictures of feens. He studied feens while they flew, in their nests, perched in trees, and on the ground. His artwork has been praised for how life-like his paintings of feens are. You almost expect to hear the feens chirp!

Feens= _____

4. What does the word praxer mean in this paragraph?

Ben loves to drink praxer. He likes how praxer is the color of the clouds but his favorite kind of praxer is chocolate praxer. Chocolate praxer doesn't come from chocolate cows though. It comes from regular cows like all praxer does. Ben likes to drink praxer with a sandwich or put it on his cereal in the mornings for breakfast.

Praxer= _____

Key:

1. Rutat= map
2. Morp=weather
3. Feens=birds
4. Praxer=milk

