



SAMPLE MATERIAL

Content Area Vocabulary: Activities Packet

Pocomoke Middle School, Maryland

Topic: Adolescent Literacy

Practice: Vocabulary Instruction

Pocomoke Middle School has implemented a schoolwide approach to teaching vocabulary. Classroom teachers use a wide variety of activities and materials on a daily basis to help students learn word meaning and demonstrate their understanding. This resource packet represents just a sampling of what can be observed in Pocomoke classrooms. Graphic organizers are typically found in all content area classrooms at Pocomoke. The first two examples are used to teach vocabulary in language arts classrooms, and the third is an example of a student vocabulary builder used during a social studies lesson.

Vocabulary games are another resource commonly used at this middle school, and an example of a poetry word sort is included here. In addition, a popular vocabulary activity for students at Pocomoke is representing their understanding of word meanings through visual representations, as shown in the examples from science and art classrooms.

One of the most common methods for teaching vocabulary, providing

repeated exposure to new words and extending practice over time, is the use of a word wall. Each Pocomoke classroom displays a word wall with words related to current texts and lessons, and previously learned vocabulary words. In addition, the school staff has created a schoolwide list of words that cut across curriculum areas, and these words are displayed on word walls throughout the school's hallways. The last page of this resource shows an example of a math word wall.

Vocabulary Squares

Word:	Synonym:
Part of Speech:	Antonym:
Symbol or Picture:	Definition:
Use it in a sentence. Underline the word. →	

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Four Square Vocabulary Box

<p>Vocabulary word and other possible versions of the word:</p>	<p>Example from personal experience that fit the word:</p>
<p>Non-Example of the word:</p>	<p>Visual representation of the word:</p>

Vocabulary Builder
Social Studies: Student Example

Vocabulary Word	Definition	Draw A Picture	Hint: What can help you remember the definition?
loess	A fine, yellow soil that is easily carried by wind & rain, found in China.		Less sounds like loess and there is less loess.
levee	A wall built along a river bank to prevent flooding.		Floods
erosion	The gradual wearing away of rock & soil by wind, glacier, or water.		Science word
famine	A widespread lack of food resulting in hunger & starvation.		Starving
Huang River	A 3,000 mile long river that flows across Northern China, and carries silt. It started a civilization.		Yellow, long river
steppe	A dry, grassy, treeless plain found in Asia & Eastern Europe.		Dry & grassy
North China Plain	A big plain in China (North) that goes across the Huang River Valley.		It goes across the Huang River Valley
plateau			
Himalayas			

Pocomoke Middle School, Worcester County Public Schools

Poetry Word Sort*

Preparation:

1. Develop a vocabulary list including parts of speech, definitions, synonyms, antonyms, and sample sentences showing the appropriate use of each word.
2. Using one color of paper (blue), create word cards for each word from the list (Insert a table in a Word document to create uniformly-sized word cards.). Use another paper color (white) to list synonyms for the word (Vary the number of synonyms to differentiate for ability levels.). Place the word card and synonym cards in a zip-loc bag (create enough bags for each student).
3. Words cards may include synonyms, antonyms, or both depending on the sophistication of the group.

Instructional Delivery:

Opening Activities/Motivation:

Explain to students that they will receive a zip-loc bag containing word cards. Some of the cards are blue. Some cards are white. Tell students that the blue cards are vocabulary from the current list. The white cards contain words that relate in some way to the list words (blue cards). Students should be told to sort the cards to relate the white cards to the blue cards. In the sort, students should establish the relationship between the blue list words and the white word cards (synonyms).

Instructional Delivery:

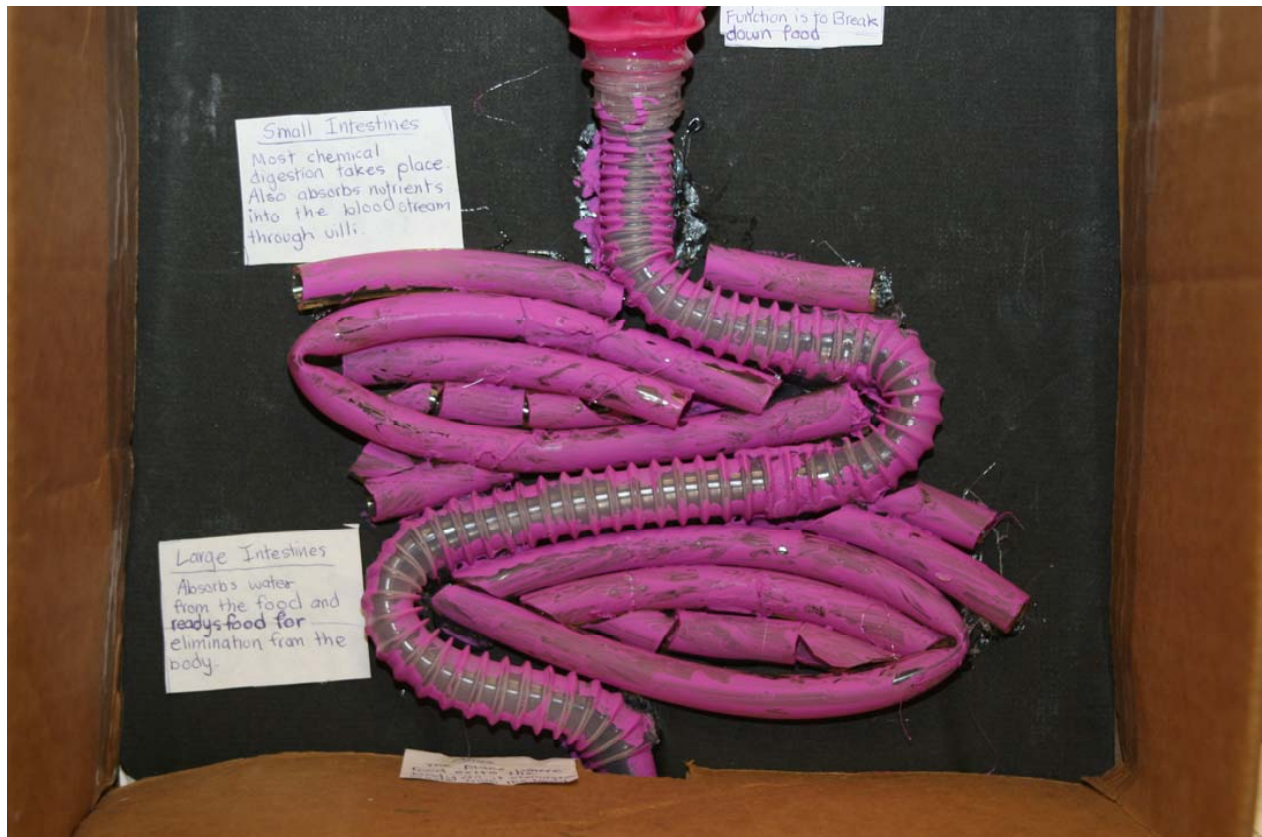
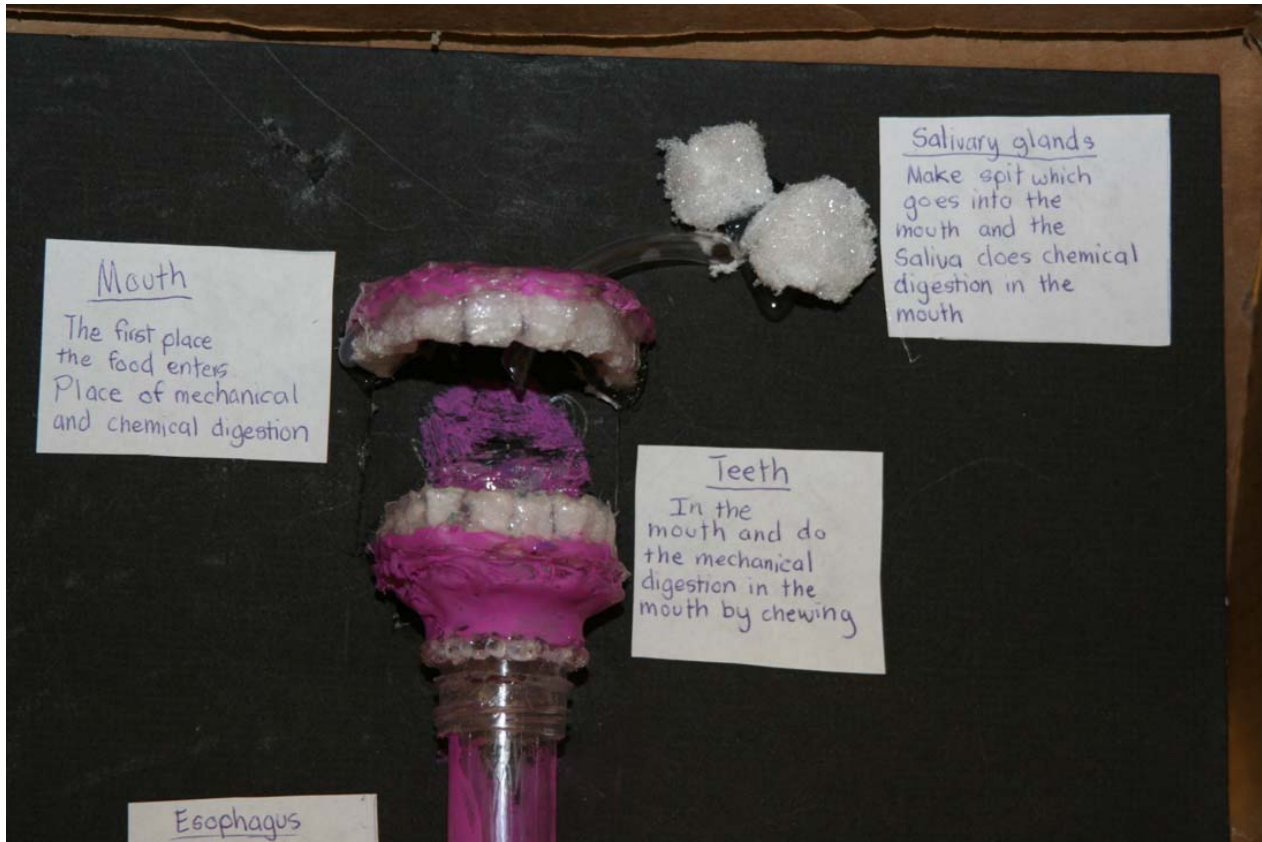
Procedures:

1. Issue a zip-loc bag to each student giving instructions about sorting the cards according to some relationship between the blue list words and the words on the white cards.
2. Allow time for students to sort the cards, circulating among them to address questions.
3. Students should state the relationship among the words.
4. Using a simple web, have students create a Word Web with the list word in the center and synonyms surrounding the word.

Assessment/Evaluation: (Formative/Summative)

1. At the conclusion of the sorting process, have students self-check their sort, or a quick informal teacher assessment can be conducted as students finish.
2. Vocabulary Quiz

* Excerpted from a lesson prepared by Debra Butler, 8th Grade Integrated Language Arts Teacher, Pocomoke Middle School.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Vocabulary in Art

Draw a picture that represents each word

Global

Keepsake

Maze

Cascade

