

## How to Use This Book

Science reading materials present students with new and often difficult words. If students do not know the meaning of a sufficient proportion of the words in the reading material, they may become frustrated and skip important words, which can make understanding the text difficult. Teaching science vocabulary first will help students build an understanding of the concepts to be taught. The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and International Reading Association support using a systematic approach to teaching vocabulary.

### Strategies

- Focus on the most important words.
- Provide students with a science-rich environment where they see, hear, read, and speak the new vocabulary words multiple times.
- Have students record word meanings, experiment results, and answers to activities in their science journals. This will provide a review resource for the students and an assessment tool for teachers and parents.

### Word Wall

atom  
dilution  
chemistry  
compound  
isotope  
mixture  
solvent

bacteria  
DNA  
environment  
genetics  
osmosis  
predator  
organism

Display words on a bulletin board.

### Teaching Science Vocabulary

**Step #1—Introduce Words:** The teacher reads the word and discusses the information provided in the vocabulary chart.

Entry word	Word meaning
<b>commensalism</b> kə-men-sə-li-zəm com-men-sal-izm	<b>definition:</b> a relationship between two kinds of organisms that benefits one without harming the other <b>context:</b> The relationship between a Monarch butterfly and a milkweed is an example of <b>commensalism</b> .
Syllables	Pronunciation
	Word used in context

**Step #2—Construct Meaning:** Students construct their own meaning, write a sentence, and create a visual representation of the word in their science journal.

Word	Definition	Picture
	Sentence	

**Step #3—Practice Using the Word:** Students gain more knowledge of the words by participating in science activities provided with each word list.

**Step #4—Reinforcement:** Students participate in a variety of reinforcement activities, such as hangman and charades, to strengthen what they have learned.