



### Student Tasks:

- Review Vocabulary List
- Review the concept of Root Word Challenge
- Compile a list of words within a root word family

### Online ThinkCERCA Resources

- Vocabulary

# Root Word Challenge

Building word knowledge and conceptual understanding using key vocabulary

*Suggested Time: 10 minutes*

## Rationale/Research Base

Root Word Challenges provide students with an opportunity to explore the origin and etymology of words. Understanding the roots of words helps students make connections across languages and discover the historical development of language.

## Optimal Application Notes:

Choose a set of root words that align with the grade level and curriculum.

### Before:

- Begin by introducing the root word challenge to the students. Explain that they will be exploring the meanings of words by identifying common roots and emphasizing the relevance of this skill for building vocabulary.
- Supply students with resources such as a list of root words, a dictionary, or online tools that can help them uncover the meanings of words based on their roots.
- Model the process of analyzing a word's meaning by breaking it down into its root, prefixes, and suffixes. Show how understanding the root can provide insights into the overall meaning of the word.

### During:

- Assign each student a specific root word family to explore. Encourage them to identify words with the assigned root, investigate their meanings, and share their findings with the class.
- Ask students to create a word list that includes words derived from the selected root words. Include a mix of familiar and less common words to cater to diverse proficiency levels.

### After:

- Conclude the Root Word Challenge with a class discussion. Encourage students to share interesting findings, challenges they encountered, and any patterns or commonalities observed across root word families.

## Scaffolds & Supports:

- Consider allowing groups instead of independent work.
- Utilize visual aids such as charts, posters, or graphic organizers that illustrate the meanings of common root words.
- Consider providing some students with partially completed lists where they are to find additional words to include.

# Root Word Challenge

**Instructions:** Enhance your vocabulary acquisition and understanding by exploring words and their meanings through root words.

## Review:

- Review the vocabulary, definitions, and root words. Make sure you understand the meaning of each word.

## Guidelines for Root Word Challenge:

- Understand Root Words: Take a moment to review the word you've been assigned. Determine the meaning and origin of the root word.
- Identify Derivatives: Think about the derivatives or words that are formed from each root word. Consider how prefixes and suffixes are added to the root word to change its meaning or form new words.
- Create a List: Develop a list of as many words as you can that are derived from your designated root word.
- Reflect on Patterns: Reflect on any patterns or commonalities you observe among the derivatives of the root words. Consider how understanding the meaning of a root word can help you decipher the meanings of unfamiliar words that share the same root.
- Share your Findings: Be prepared to share interesting findings and challenges with your classmates.

## Extension Activity (Optional):

- Challenge Your Classmates: Encourage friendly competition and collaboration and set a timer to see who can list the most words with a new root word. Compare lists as you all work to expand your vocabulary.

# Root Word Challenge

3rd – 5th

**Instructions:** Learn more about words through their roots. Explore where words come from and learn how they're connected to other words.

## Review:

- Take another look at your new words, what they mean, and where they come from.

## Guidelines for Root Word Challenge:

- Understand Roots: Think about the main word you've been given. Where do you think it comes from, and what does it mean?
- Find More Words: Now, try to think of other words that come from the same main word. Sometimes, we add bits to the start or end to make new words.
- Create a List: Write down all the words you can think of that come from your main word. The more, the better!
- Reflect on Patterns: Do you notice any similarities between the words you found? How do they change when we add different parts?
- Share Your Findings: When you're finished, you'll share what you found with your classmates.

## Extension Activity (Optional):

- Challenge Time: Make it a game! See who can find the most words in a certain amount of time. It's a fun way to learn and build our vocabularies together.