

Find the Words

Provide students with specific letters of the alphabet. Tell them that their task is to create as many words as possible with the letters provided in the area in which they are studying. If challenged, students should be prepared to state how the word is related to the selected topic.

Science Vocabulary Example

Provide a group of students with the letters: a, c, e, h, j, i, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, u. Have them come up with as many vocabulary words in the area of the solar system as possible from the list of letters provided. Remember, they cannot use other letters, but they can repeat letters within words as often as necessary. If challenged, they should be prepared to state how the word is related to the solar system.

Sample Words: solar, planet, sun, star, Jupiter, Uranus, Saturn, Mars, Pluto, earth, moon.

The Narrative Chain

A narrative chain requires that students link words in a list together into a sentence or paragraph. By using the words and associating them they create a firmer connection between the new words and those already stored in their memory.

Science Narrative Chain Example

Provide students with the words: temperatures, southern, glacier, earth, tropical, rainforest, jungle, ice cap, moderate

A sample narrative chain might be as follows:

Although some of the places on the earth experience moderate temperature changes throughout the year, there are also areas where the temperatures are quite drastic. In some of the southern regions, one might experience a tropical rainforest or jungle-like atmosphere which is very hot and humid. Some parts of the earth are very cold all year long and are composed of glaciers or ice caps.

K. I. M. (Key Idea – Information - Memory Clue)

K. I. M. is a great strategy for new words or concepts. Write the term or key idea (K) in the left column, the information (I) that goes along with it in the center column, and draw a picture of the idea, a memory clue, (M) in the right column.

K (Key Idea)	I (Information)	M (Memory Clue)
drought	Little or no rain over a period of time	