

Terminology Tactic 4: Word Branching

Students use an organizer to examine the meaning of a word from several angles, which engages their logical and verbal-linguistic intelligences. The completed Word Branch makes a great study aid.

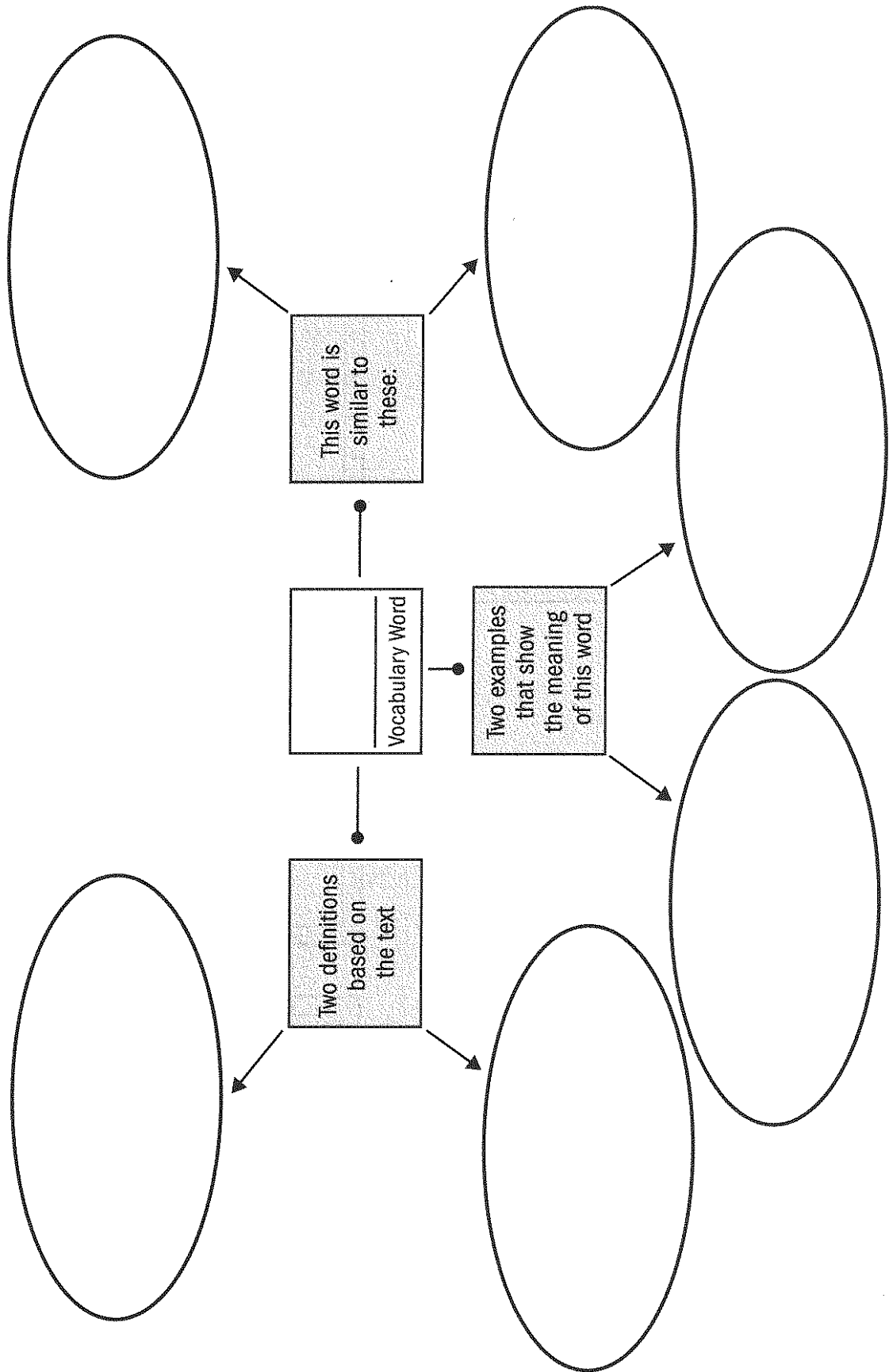
Materials

- Word Branching template (page 88)
- list of vocabulary words you're ready to review
- text(s) in which the words are located

Procedure

1. Distribute copies of the Word Branching template and have students fill in the target word you've selected. (As with Word Blasts, we recommend starting with two to four words—interacting with too many words at once may overwhelm some students.)
2. Have students interact with the word from three different perspectives and write their responses on the form. They will:
 - Use context clues from the text to formulate a definition of the vocabulary term. (Make sure students have the reading materials they need to locate and reread the passages with the target words.) Have them come up with two possibilities for the word's meaning. These examples may be written or drawn, depending on the preference of the student.
 - Apply the vocabulary term to the subject matter. Based on their prior knowledge or use of context clues, students provide two examples of how this term relates to the subject matter being learned. Again, these examples may be written or drawn depending on the preference of the student.
 - Using what they've learned about the word, generate related words, listing similar terms or concepts.
3. As students compare their definitions, examples, and related words, they can refine their ideas. To further increase their interaction with the words, have students work in pairs to list all their related terms in order of how closely related they are to the original term.

Word Branching

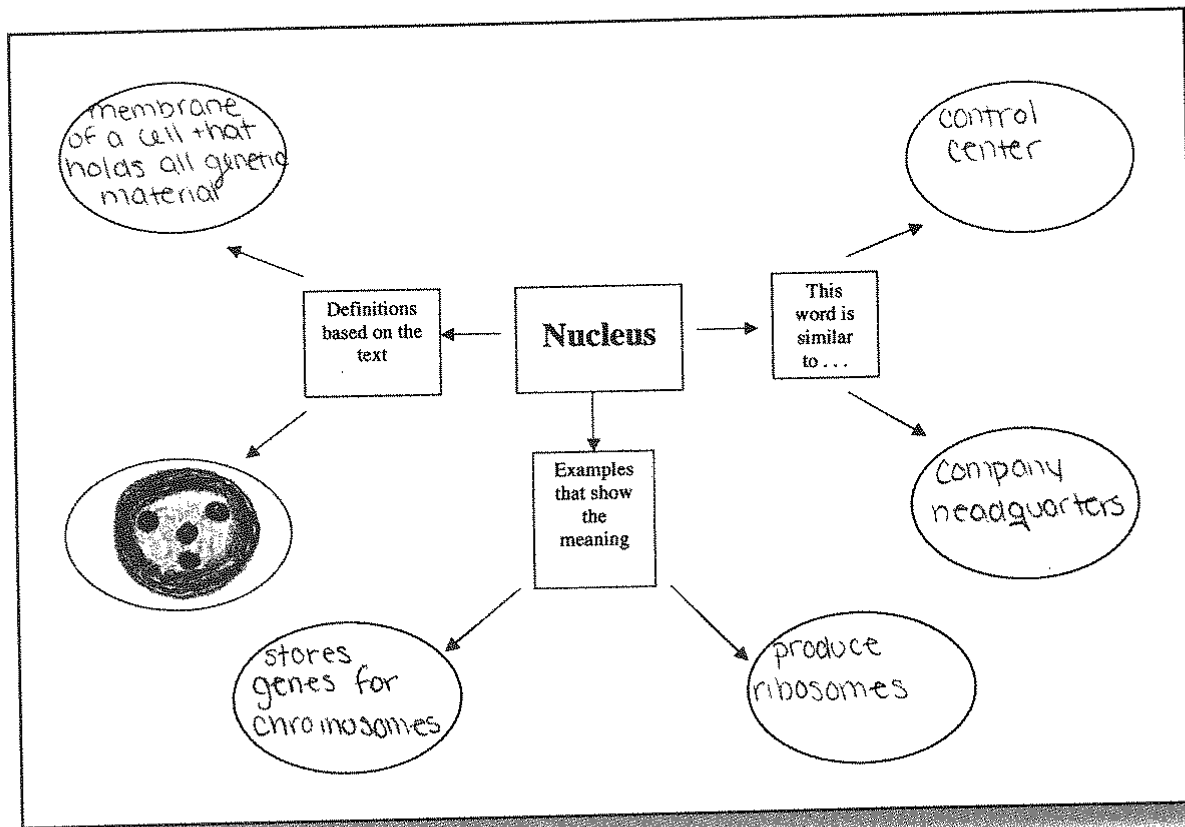


Word Branching

(Biology, Cell Function and Structure)

ASSIGNMENT NOTES:

This biology student shows what she's learned about the structure and function of the nucleus in this word branching assignment. She uses words and a picture to give the definition, describes key functions in the examples, and chooses an associated phrase (*control center*) and an excellent analogy (*company headquarters*) to convey the importance and role of the nucleus.



Word Blast

(Social Studies, American Revolution)


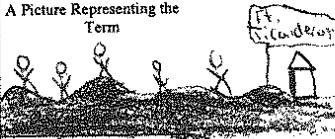


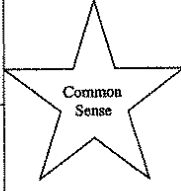

ASSIGNMENT NOTES:

In this example, the student explored terms relating to the American Revolution, including a group of people (Green Mountain Boys), a battle site (Bunker Hill), and an important contemporary document (*Common Sense*). The assignment tied the glossary definition to a memorable image, and provided the student's evaluation of how the term related to the revolution. The Word Blast becomes part of her study materials for the unit.

Regin ☺ P. 2

Word Blast

We have discussed many people, places, terms and battles associated with the American Revolution. I have chosen several of these important items and you will be responsible for creating a Word Star for each term listed.

<p>Definition Patriots from Vermont.</p>		<p>A Picture Representing the Term </p>
<p>How did they impact the Revolution? They got cannons + gun powder to guns from Ft. Mifflin.</p>		<p>Extra Information Were lead by Ethan Allen. Took Ft. Mifflin.</p>
<p>Definition First battle of the Revolutionary War.</p>		<p>A Picture Representing the Term </p>
<p>How did this impact the Revolution? The British won the war. But the colonists won a moral victory.</p>		<p>Extra Information The British realized that the colonists were able to fight well. Even though they won they felt it wasn't worth it.</p>
<p>Definition A book Thomas Paine wrote to convince the colonists to break away from Britain.</p>		<p>A Picture Representing the Term </p>
<p>How did this impact the Revolution? It helped the colonists see what they were fighting for + made them more determined.</p>		<p>Extra Information Washington read it to his troops to make them determined.</p>

Word Art

(Earth Science, Astronomy)

ASSIGNMENT NOTES:

Following a lesson on the definition and characteristics of astronomy in an earth science class, students were asked to complete a word art piece showing their understanding of the term and the concepts associated with astronomy. In this example, the student took the letters and shaped them into personal examples of how she conceptualized *astronomy*.

