

## Science Content Vocabulary

Vocabulary is an important part of understanding fossils and the environment around them. While many of the vocabulary words included below are science-related, they could also be incorporated into a spelling unit or other cross-disciplinary effort such as career exploration. A “career hunt” could open your students’ eyes to a real world purpose of learning and give them some research experience. An integral part of learning vocabulary is using it in speech and writing.

The following *Virginia Language Arts Standards of Learning* represent some of the standards related to content based vocabulary:

K.2 The student will expand understanding and use of word meanings.

g) Use vocabulary from other content areas.

K.8 The student will expand vocabulary.

1.2 The student will expand understanding and use of word meanings.

1.7 The student will use semantic clues and syntax to expand vocabulary when reading.

2.2 The student will expand understanding and use of word meanings.

2.6 The student will use semantic clues and syntax to expand vocabulary when reading.

3.4 The student will expand vocabulary when reading.

4.4 The student will expand vocabulary when reading.

5.4 The student will expand vocabulary when reading.

5.7 The student will write for a variety of purposes: to describe, to inform, to entertain, to explain, and to persuade.

### Activity:

Turning your vocabulary words into spelling words is one way to make your students remember them, but often students don’t retain these words long-term. It is beneficial to integrate these new words into the classroom conversation. Choose books that highlight words or topics; write poems in teams; watch videos with visuals of the words; or create visual art that incorporates the words.

Play the “I have \_\_\_\_\_ . Who has \_\_\_\_\_?” game. Each student has a note card. One side of the card has the definition of a word and the reverse side has a word that is unconnected to the definition. The student reads their definition

aloud and the student with the corresponding vocabulary word reads their word in answer. That student then reads the definition on the back of their own card and searches for the matching word from the rest of the students. This continues until all students have read their words and definitions.

The following list of words may be helpful to your students:

Habitat	Decay	Volcano
Environment	Preserved	Seismologist
Core	Extinct	Climate
Mantle	Fossil	Granite
Crust	Geologist	Sedimentary
Ecosystem	Paleontologist	Igneous