

Dictionary Skills/Guideword Lesson

GRADE(S)	3 and up
GOALS	Help students understand the use of guidewords in seeking information
ESSENTIAL QUESTION	How do guidewords help you find information?
STANDARD(S)	ELA Literacy
MATERIALS	<p>Part 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sample dictionary pages (suggest 3 or 4). Guidewords show first and last word on the page. All pages should contain words beginning with the same letter.• 25-35 index cards with words belonging on the dictionary pages <p>Part 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One dictionary for each group/table (all alike)• “Grand Prix” game board with vehicle and track for each group/table• word cards for students to find in dictionary (on large index cards, or word processed in large font & laminated)

DESCRIPTION	<p>Part 1: As a class, practice alphabetizing words on sample dictionary pages. All words should begin with the same letter so students have to look at the second, third and possibly fourth word to select the correct page. Select a page with several words and alphabetize the words for that page. Ask students essential question and ask what other books have guidewords (index, encyclopedia, thesaurus, phone book, etc.)</p> <p>Part 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break students into groups (tables work well). One person in the group will handle the dictionary and one will be the helper. Other group members are allowed to cheer silently or help with the spelling of the word. Members of group take turns with helper/dictionary handler positions. • Turn the word cards over one at a time. All teams look up the word and raise their hand when they have found the word. Tell them they must put their finger on the word and leave it there until you have checked. Some of the words are in different forms (i.e. legislature vs. legislative or princial or principle) Have someone on the team read the definition (or part of the definition) or use the word in a sentence. Move the team's vehicle forward one space on the game board. • Close all dictionaries, move the dictionary to the next person and repeat until time runs out or one team has reached the finish line.
ASSESSMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students recognize the value of guidewords • Students find information more quickly by using guidewords

dolphin

dolphin _____

drift

different

different _____

dog

dance

dance

decide

decorate

decorate _____

dictionary

Suggested words for index cards – practice alphabetizing:

dime
dragon
double
doodle
dedication
defend
dented
dangerous
dare
dial
December
dash
deliver
darken
daughter
dries
dig
date
degree
disagree
direction
dress
downtown
dinner
dove
doctor
diorama

Suggested words for large index cards – use for Grand Prix

Population	Student
Poverty	Chocolate
Author	Customs
Opinion	Climate
Friend	Wonderful
Persuade	Principle
Opportunity	Principal
Pictures	Reference
Horizontal	Punctuation
Agriculture	Decade
Library	Celebrate
Insects	
Pollution	
Flock	
Happy	
Irrigation	
Ancient	
Handkerchief	
Colony	
Holiday	
Continent	
Observe	
Glacier	
Democracy	
Country	
Population	
Legislature	
Century	
Boycott	
Surplus	
Computer	
Respect	
Arid	
Atlas	
Dictionary	
Vertical	

Sample game board

DICTIONARY GRAND PRIX

START					FINISH

Each group has a vehicle in the start column. Advance that vehicle one space each time that group is the first to find the word.