



Water Words

ALABAMA OUTDOOR CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Grade Levels

3-12

Overview

Students will create a list of words that name or describe water and then use these words as they write about water .

Subject Areas

Biology, Language Arts, and Environmental Sciences

Duration

1 to 2 45-minute periods or more depending on educational purpose

Learning Objectives

1) Students will brainstorm a list of at least 20 to 50 words that can be associated with water (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs). 2) Students will use the words as they write a paragraph that tells about water. 3) Students will use the class list of water words as they write poetry.

Alabama Course of Study Objectives

Science:

Third: 2, 4, 12

Fourth: 3, 7

Sixth: 3, 7

Seventh: 7

Language Arts:

Third: 1,2,5,9,10,11

Fourth: 1,6,8,10

Fifth: 1,9,10,12

Sixth: 6,8,9,10,11,12

Seventh: 3,7,9,10,11

Eighth: 3,8,9,11

Vocabulary

This list will vary depending on the list of words that are created by the students. You may want to use their word lists to create a classroom master list or word wall/bank.

Background Info

All living things, both plants and animals, need water for survival. Water represents about 75% of a person's body weight. Some species of animals and plants have even a higher percentage of water weight such as a jellyfish at around 95% and a watermelon at around 97%. Water covers approximately 75% of the Earth's surface.

Preparation

Prior to this activity, you will want to select an area that has some type of a water feature available such as a water garden, pond, or stream. If you do not have any water features available on your campus, you may want to create a PowerPoint of water pictures to help stimulate the students thinking as they brainstorm their list of "water words".

Procedure

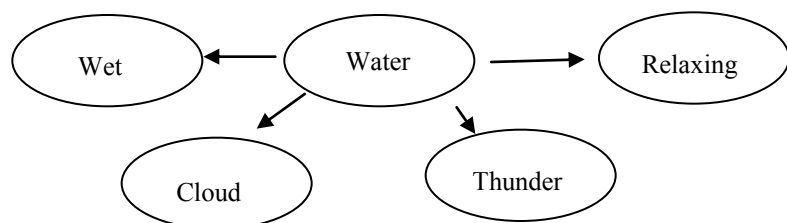
- 1) (This first step can be done individually or in groups of up to 4 people.) Have the student or students view a collection of pictures that show water or go outside and observe a water feature on the campus (clouds, waterfall, beach, rainfall, lightning, bottle of water, etc.) as they brainstorm a list of words that can be associated with water. If this is done as an individual activity, you may want to require each student to come up with 20 to 50 words. If it is done as a group activity, you may want to require 50 to 100 words.

Example word list:

Water	Bubbling	Reflective	Wet
Thunder	Waves	Relaxing	Cloud

- 2) Once the students have created their lists, have them share their words with the rest of the class and create a word bank or word wall that is created by compiling everyone's word lists. These words can also be sorted based on number of syllables, parts of speech, number of letters, etc. You could even create a game that awards points for each word based on number of letters or if no one else had that word on their list.
- 3) Once the students have created their word lists, have them create word trees of water-related words.

Example word tree:





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Materials

- Nature journal pages (See corresponding journal page)

Literature Connections:

Locker, Thomas. **Water Dance**. ISBN-10-0152163964

Locker, Thomas. **Where the River Begins**. ISBN-10-0152045961

Outdoor Classroom Connections

Students will create a water-related word list by observing a water feature in their outdoor classroom or by looking at an assortment of water-related pictures. Using these words, the students will use them in several creative writing activities.

Other Related Conservation Education Activities

Project Learning Tree

- ⇒ *Water Wonders*
- ⇒ *Every Drop Counts*
- ⇒ *Watch on Wetlands*

Project WILD

- ⇒ *Rainfall and the Forest*

Aquatic WILD

- ⇒ *Water Wings*

Access Nature

- ⇒ *The Water Cycle*
- ⇒ *The Watershed where You Live*

Discovering Alabama Videos

- ⇒ *Coastal Alabama Part I*
- ⇒ *Alabama Rivers*

Procedure

- 4) Once the students have finished creating their water word trees, have them write a sentence or short paragraph that incorporates all of their words in a meaningful and descriptive way. Once they have completed their paragraphs, have the students share what they have written with the rest of the class.

Example paragraph:

*While I was **relaxing** on the beach, I watched a small white **cloud** grow dark over the gulf **water** as it moved towards the shore. Suddenly, there was a large boom of **thunder** that startled me. I hurriedly gathered up my belongings and headed for the car, but got **wet** due to this unexpected storm.*

- 5) These word lists and word trees may also be used to create water-related poetry. The following are some sample types of poetry.

Cinquain is derived from the French and Spanish words for five. This form of poetry is also based on syllables – or may be based on the number of words – but there are five lines. Each line has a mandatory purpose and number of syllables or words. The purpose of each line is as follows:

1. The title in two syllables or words.
2. A description of the title in four syllables or words.
3. A description of an action in six syllables or words.
4. A description of a feeling in 8 syllables or words.
5. Another name for the title in two syllables or words.

*Mirror
Glass-like surface
Reflects the sky above
Feeling caught between sky and
sky
Calm pond*

Haiku, originated by the Japanese, consists of three lines of five, seven, and five syllables each. The emphasis is syllabic, not rhyming.

**Gurgling water,
Tumbling over the rocks,
Worn smooth by time.**

Extensions

Create a classroom web page or classroom book as a means by which to share the student's writing creations. You can also have the students illustrate their creations.





Name: _____

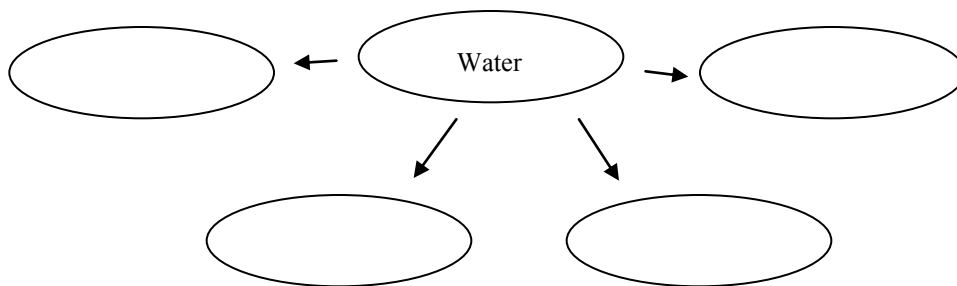
Date: _____

Water Words

Carefully observe a pond, stream or other water feature or a collection of water-themed pictures as you make a list of words in the table below that you associate with water.

WATER				

Now, select five words (one has to be water) from your list above and write them in the word tree below. Once you have the words selected, write a descriptive paragraph about water that is no more than three sentences in length.





Name: _____

Date: _____

Water Word Poetry

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Example of a Cinquain:

Mirror

Glass-like surface

Reflects the sky above

***Feeling caught between sky and
sky***

Calm pond

Haiku, originated by the Japanese, consists of three lines of five, seven, and five syllables each. The emphasis is syllabic, not rhyming.

Example of a Haiku:

Gurgling water,

Tumbling over the rocks,

Worn smooth by time.