



Substitute Teacher Guide Vocabulary Activities

Created: 03/2025 by the National FFA Organization

These activities can be used with any vocabulary list. Each of the Substitute Teacher Guides has a list of terms that can be used with these activities while you are out of your classroom.

Vocabulary Activities:

1. [Short Story Vocabulary Activity](#)
Students will choose 10 words from the list you provide and create a short story using all those words. They will then pick one word from their story and create an illustration for that word.
2. [Visual Dictionary Vocabulary Activity](#)
Students will choose 10 words from the list you provide and define each term by drawing a picture-only, no-words, definition.
3. [Hexagonal Thinking Vocabulary Activity](#)
Students will choose 10 words from the list you provide and use the hexagonal thinking graphic organizers to make connections between their selected terms and other words/ideas they are familiar with.
4. [Trading Card Vocabulary Activity](#)
Students will partner up, and each will choose six words from the list you provide. They will create trading cards for their six words, "trade" them with their partners, and collect the information from each other so they both have the information for all 12 words recorded.
5. [Crossword Vocabulary Activity](#)
Students will choose 10 to 15 of the vocabulary words from the list you provide and create a crossword puzzle using the word definitions as clues. Once they have completed the crossword, they will exchange crossword puzzles with a classmate and solve them. The creator can then "grade" the crossword.
6. [Acrostic Vocabulary Activity](#)
Students will choose 10 words from the list you provide and create acrostics for them using related words and/or synonyms.
7. [Graffiti Word Wall Vocabulary Activity](#)
Students will choose 10 words from the list you provide. For each word, they will write it in a graffiti style across the center of the piece of paper and then complete each corner of the Frayer model: a definition in one corner (and/or a synonym), antonyms in another, a sentence highlighting the word's meaning in the third corner and an illustration showing the word's meaning in the fourth.
8. [Vocabulary Checkers Activity](#)
Students will fill out the Vocabulary Checkers gameboard with words from the list you provide. They will then partner up and play checkers with their partners. To make a move, they have to say a sentence using the vocabulary word on the space to which they want to move.

Short Story Vocabulary Activity

Choose 10 of the vocabulary words from the list provided by your teacher and create a short story. Please underline or **bold** the vocabulary words used throughout your story. Be creative and have fun! You may add additional pages as necessary.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Name: _____

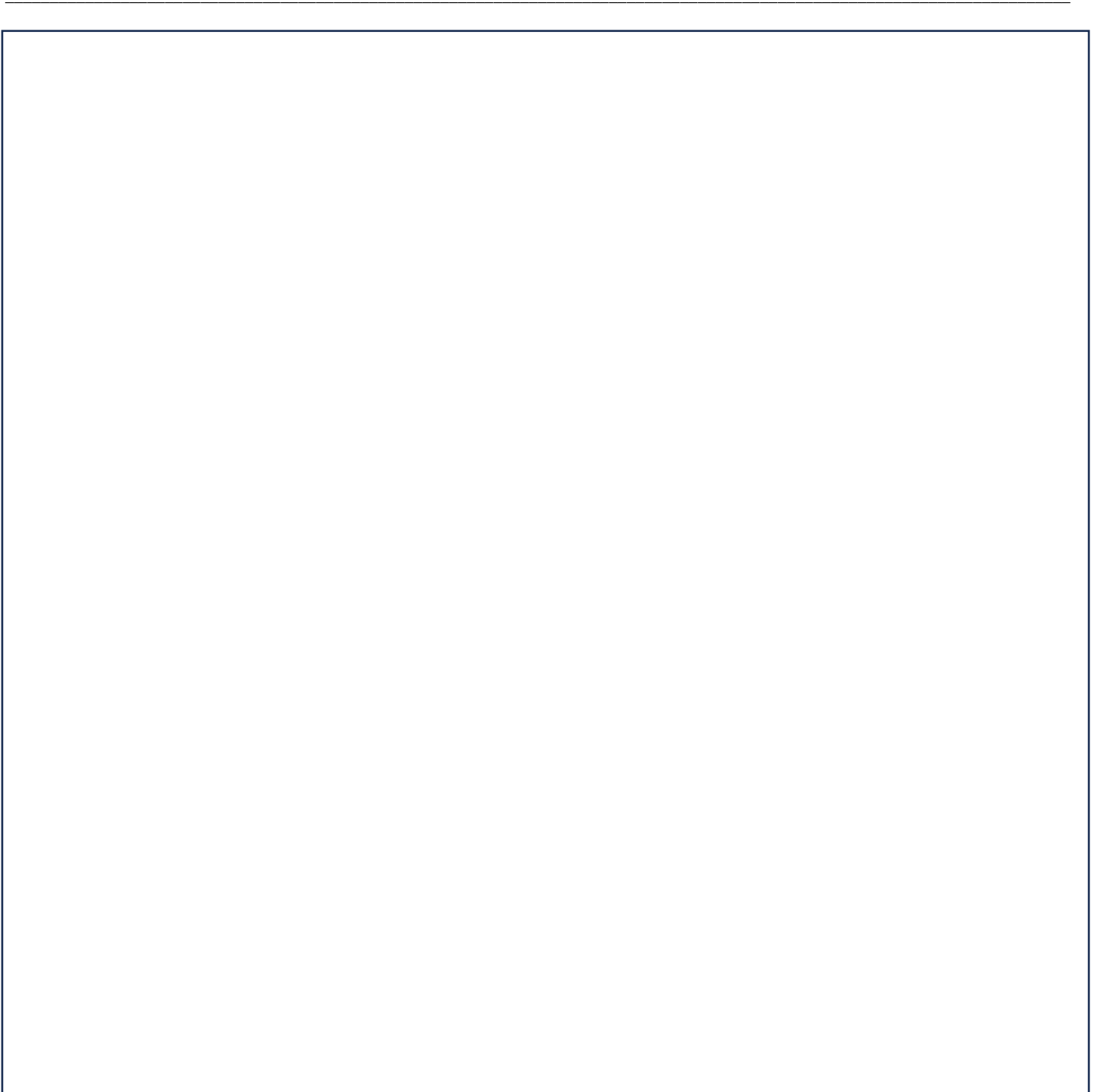
Part 2

Directions:

Review your short story and select one vocabulary word that you used. In the space below, create an illustration of that vocabulary word.

Vocabulary word illustrated: _____

Definition: _____



Name: _____

Visual Dictionary Vocabulary Activity

Directions:

Choose 10 of the vocabulary words from the list provided by your teacher and define each by drawing a picture.

Vocabulary Word:

Picture:

Vocabulary Word:

Picture:

Vocabulary Word:

Picture:

Vocabulary Word:

Picture:

Name: _____

Vocabulary Word:

Picture:

Vocabulary Word:

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Picture:

Vocabulary Word:

Picture:

Name: _____

Vocabulary Word:

Picture:

Vocabulary Word:

Picture:

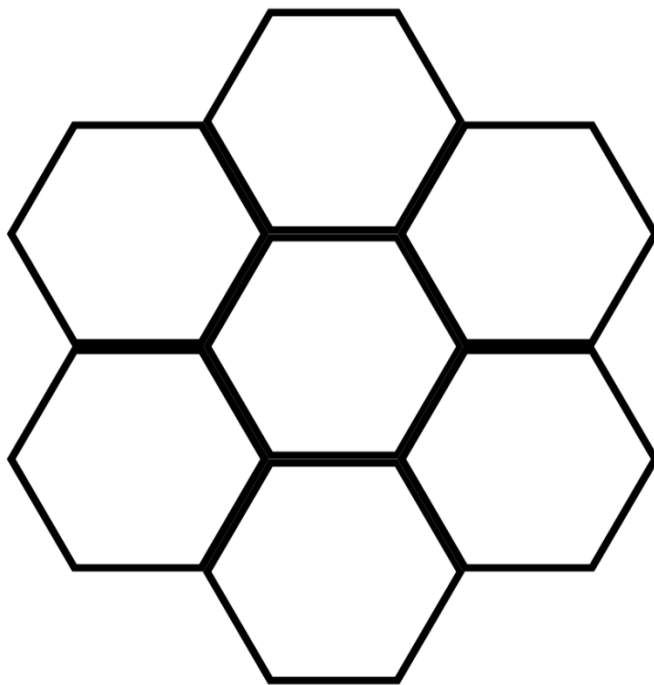
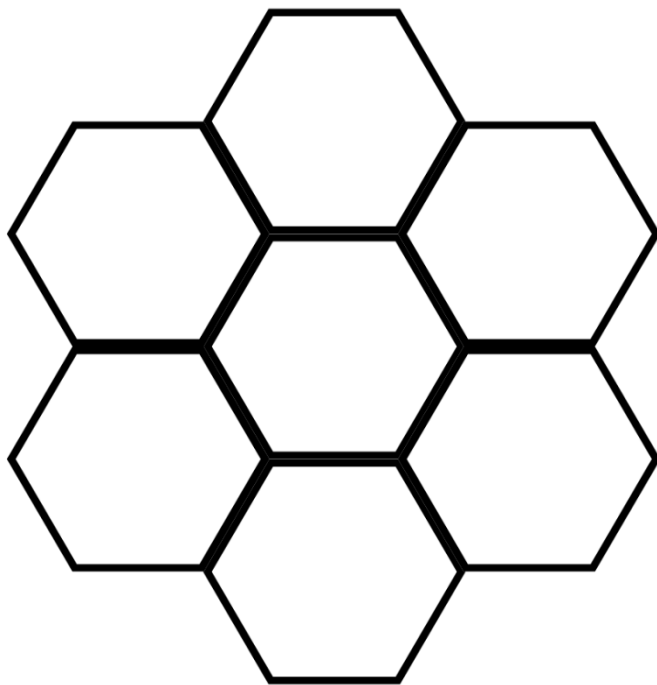
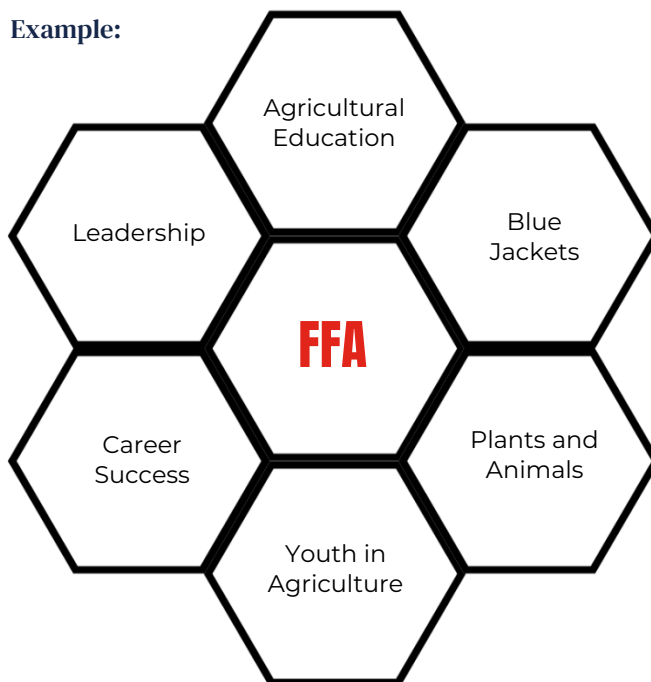
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Hexagonal Thinking Vocabulary Activity

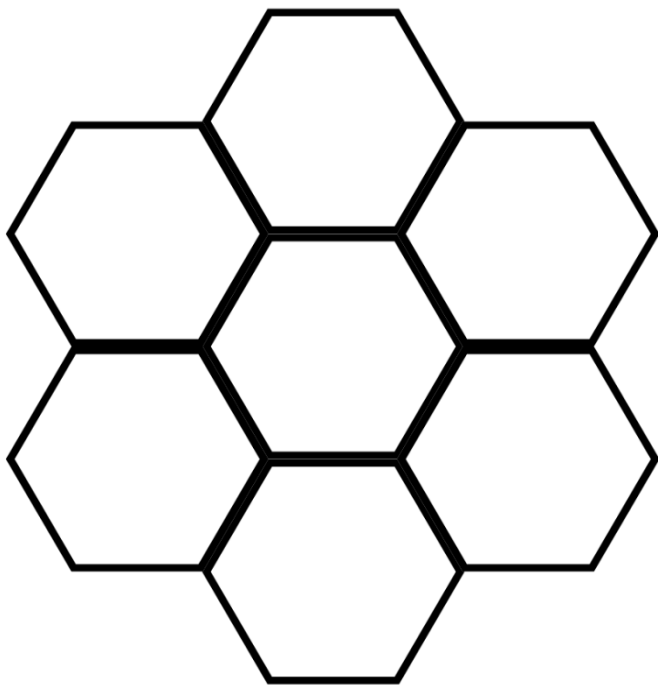
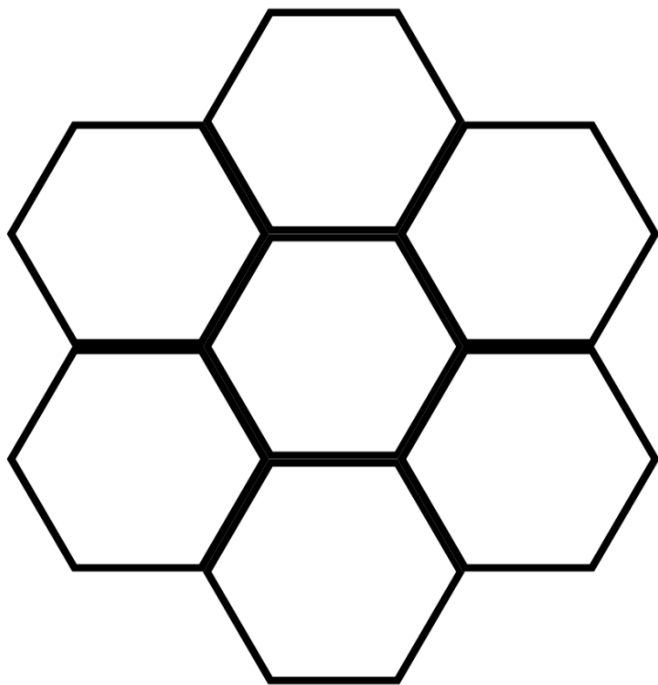
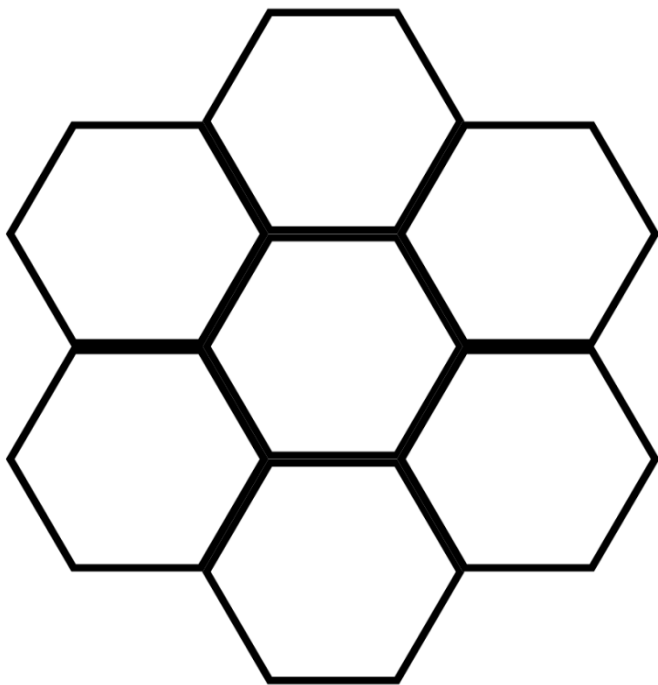
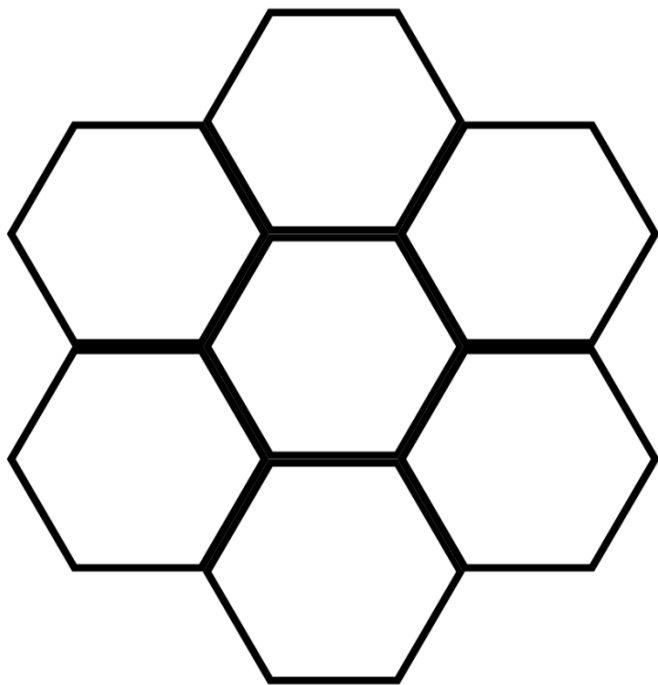
Directions:

Choose 10 of the vocabulary words from the list provided by your teacher and complete the hexagonal thinking organizers below. Write each word you've chosen in the center of one of the hexagonal thinking organizers, then in the outer hexagons, write words or phrases that are related to the word in the center. See the example below.

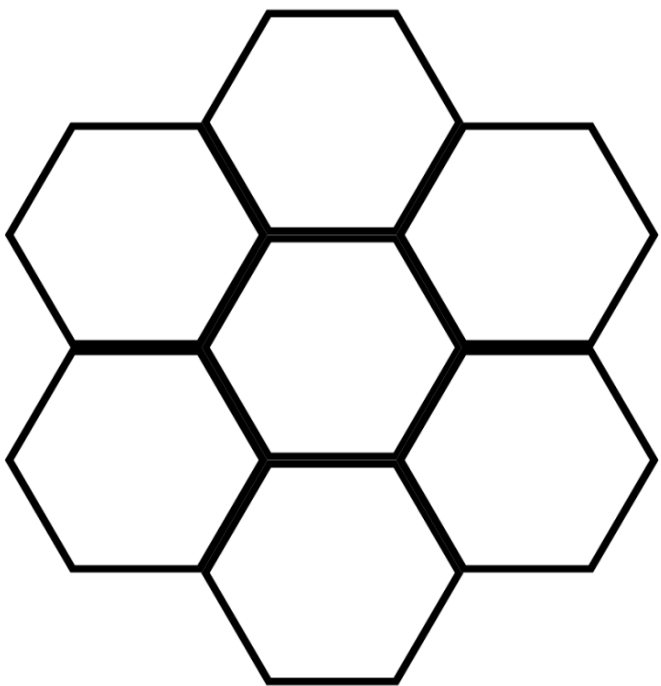
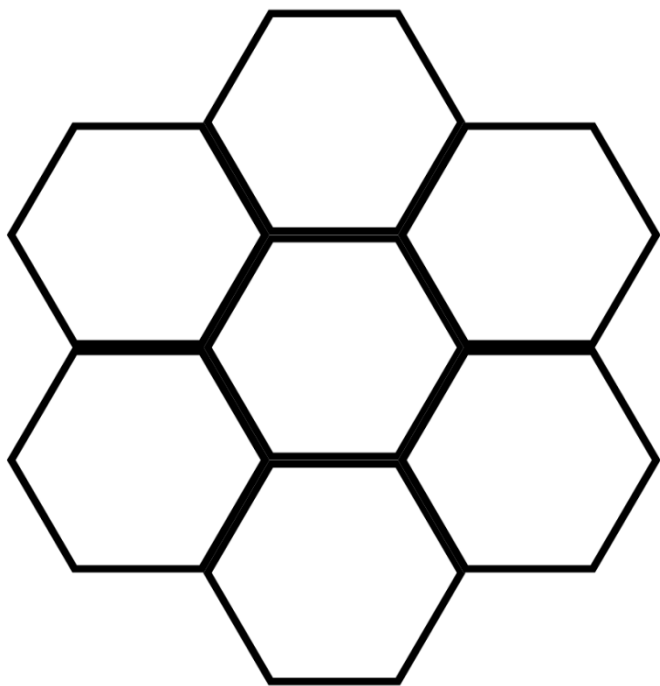
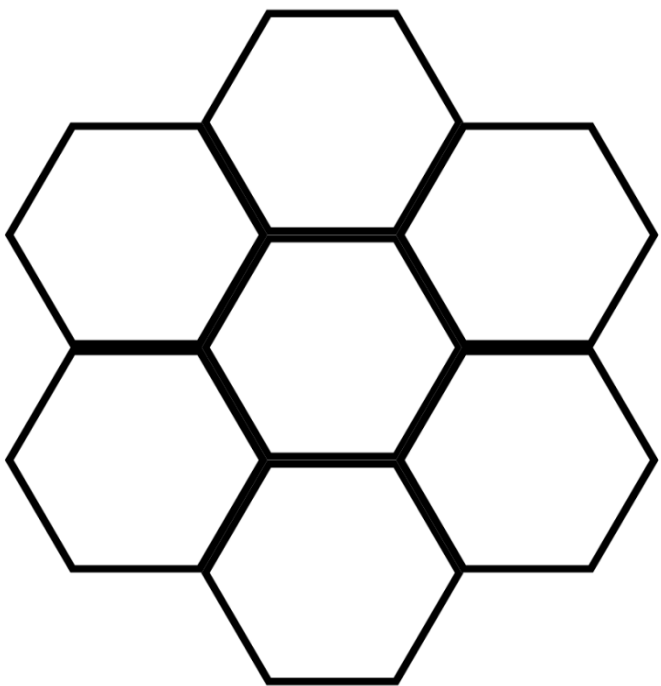
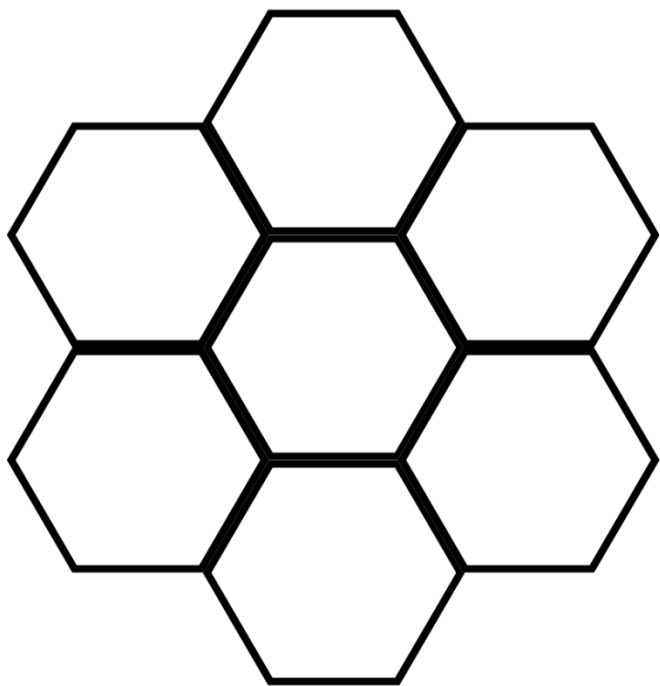
Example:



Name: _____



Name: _____



Name: _____

Trading Card Vocabulary Activity

Part 1

Directions:

Find a partner. Each of you will choose six of the vocabulary words from the list provided by your teacher and create trading cards for them using the templates below. (Ensure you and your partner are choosing different words.)

AG Words

Word:

Picture:

Definition:

Sentence:

AG Words

Word:

Picture:

Definition:

Sentence:

AG Words

Word:

Picture:

Definition:

Sentence:

AG Words

Word:

Picture:

Definition:

Sentence:

AG Words

Word:

Picture:

Definition:

Sentence:

AG Words

Word:

Picture:

Definition:

Sentence:

Name: _____

Part 2

Directions:

“Trade” your cards with your partner and review the information they collected for their words and record them below. Share your cards with them so they can record the information you found.

Partner’s Name: _____

AG Words	AG Words	AG Words
Word:	Word:	Word:
Picture:	Picture:	Picture:
Definition:	Definition:	Definition:
Sentence:	Sentence:	Sentence:

AG Words	AG Words	AG Words
Word:	Word:	Word:
Picture:	Picture:	Picture:
Definition:	Definition:	Definition:
Sentence:	Sentence:	Sentence:

Crossword Vocabulary Activity

Choose 10 to 15 of the vocabulary words from the list provided by your teacher and create a crossword puzzle (you can use the back of the page for more clues if needed). Use the vocabulary word definitions as clues. Once you have completed the crossword, exchange crossword puzzles with a classmate and solve it. The creator can then “grade” the crossword.

This image shows a full page of blank graph paper. The grid consists of small, equal-sized squares formed by thin black lines. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

Name: _____

Acrostic Vocabulary Activity

Directions:

Choose 10 of the vocabulary words from the list provided by your teacher and create acrostics for them in the boxes below using related words and/or synonyms. See the example below.

Awareness

Growth

Resilience

Innovation

Cultivation

Understanding

Land

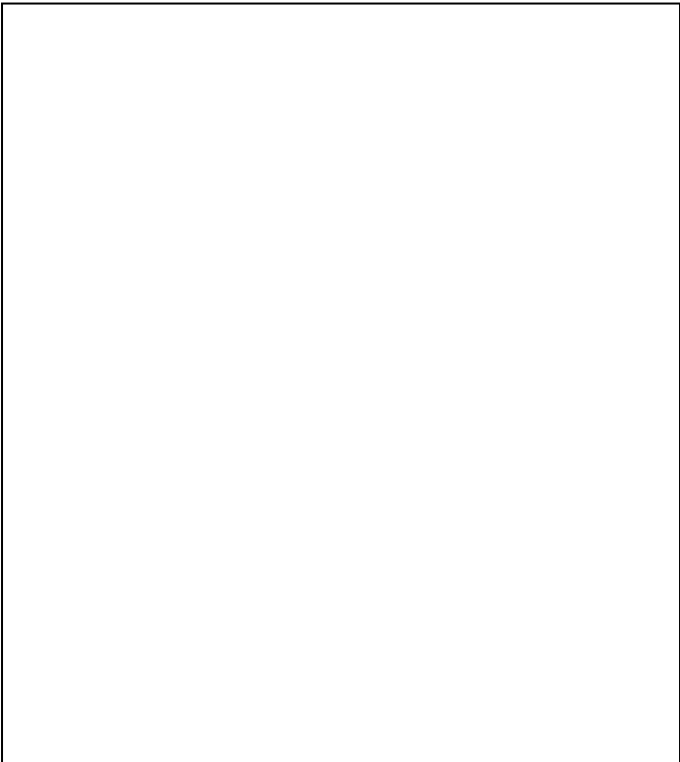
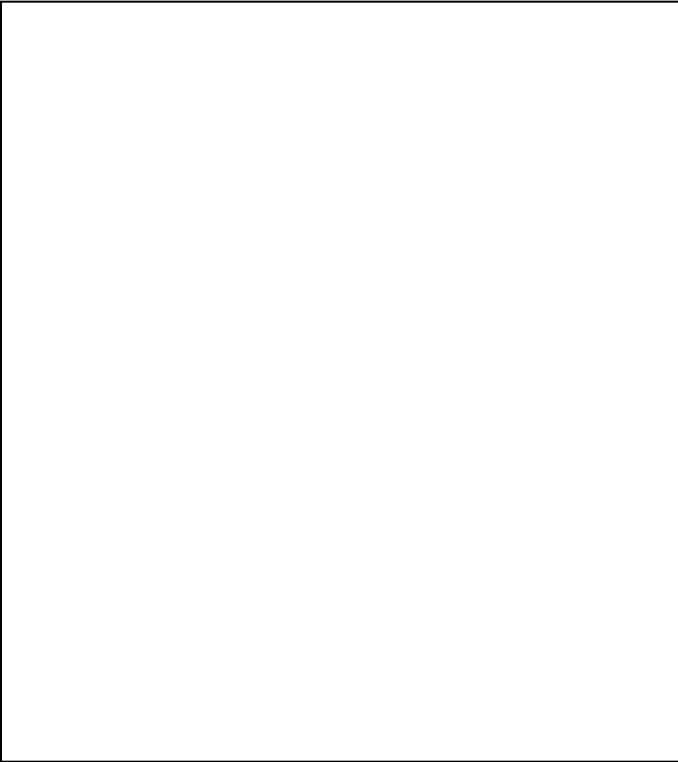
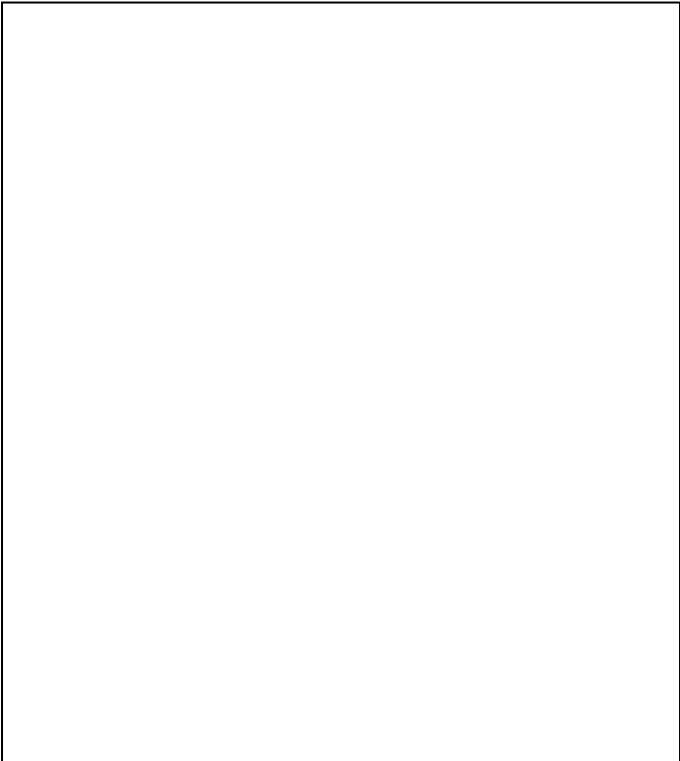
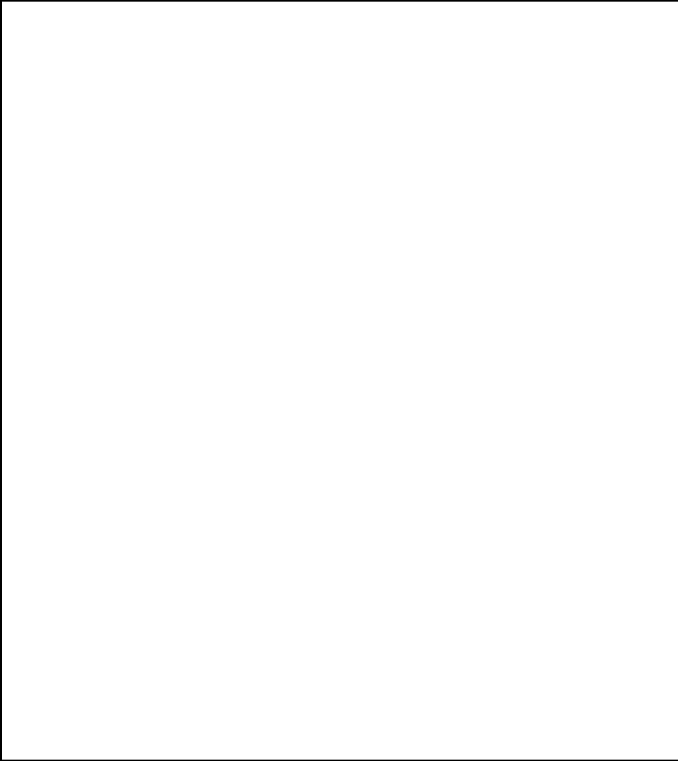
Tradition

Utilization

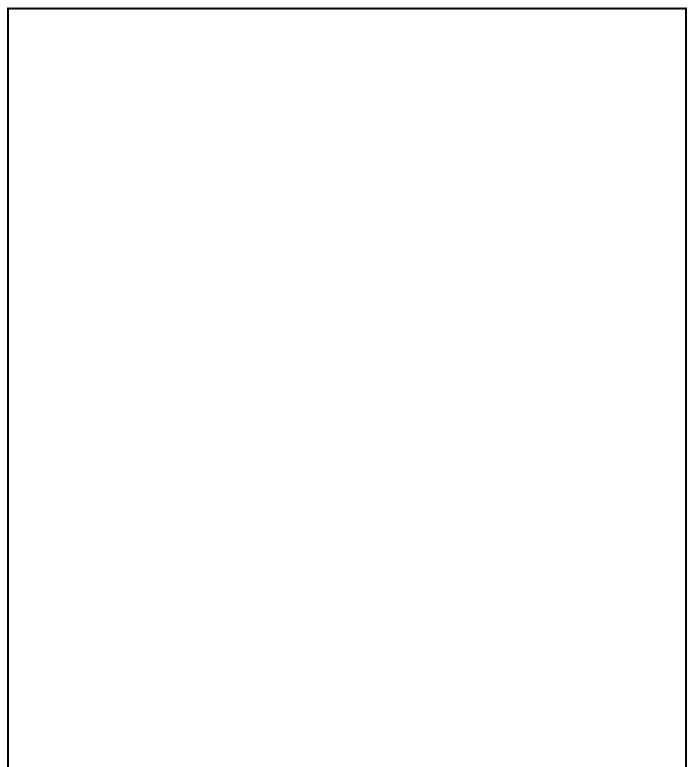
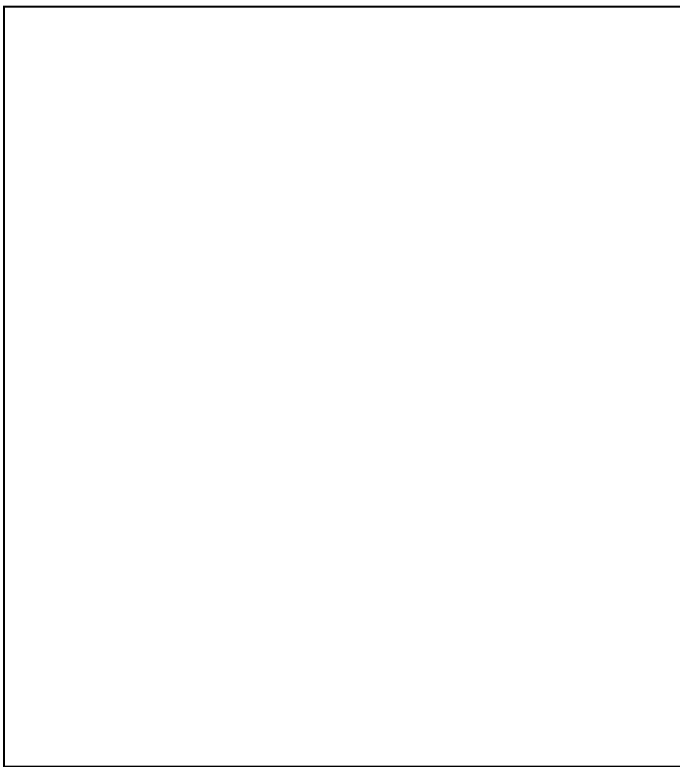
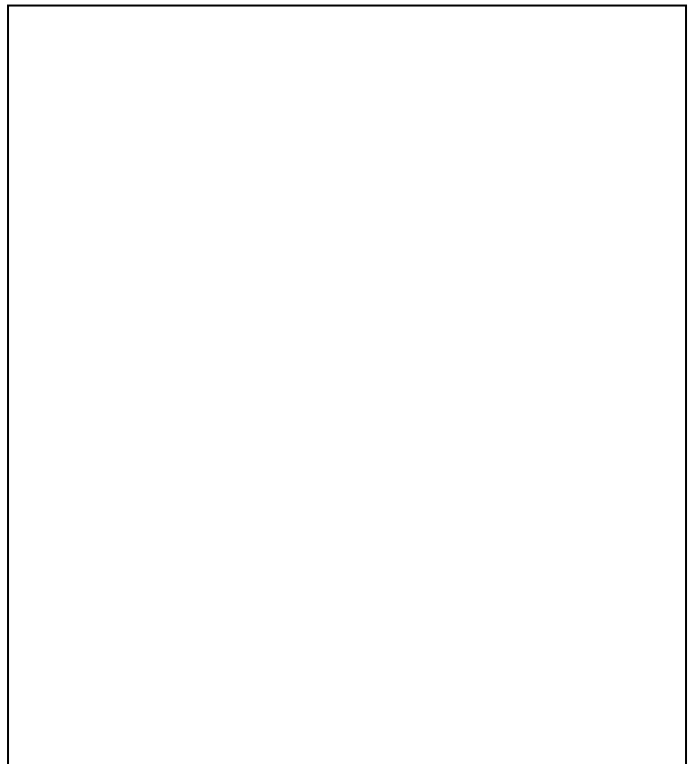
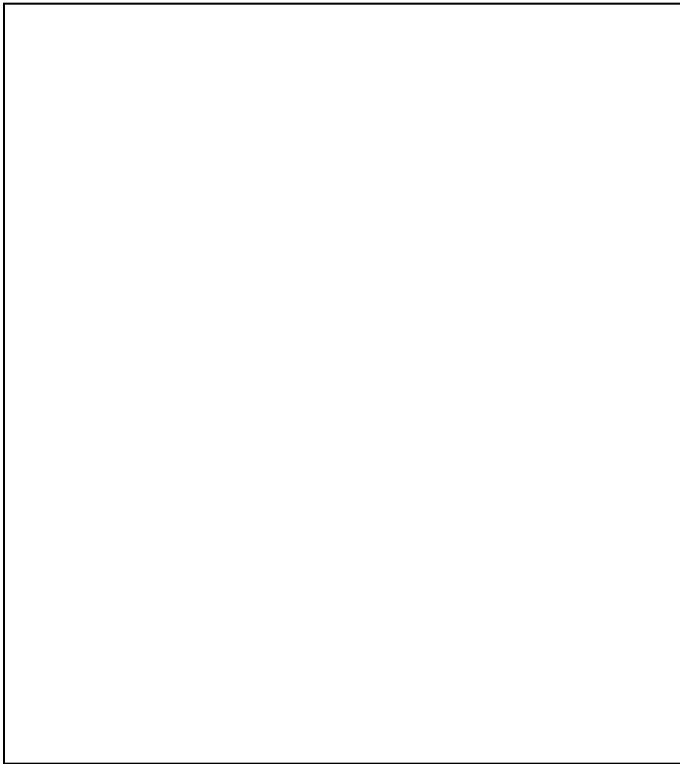
Renewal

Environment

Name: _____



Name: _____



Choose one of your acrostics from above and create a version of it on a full-sized sheet of paper; add color and visuals.

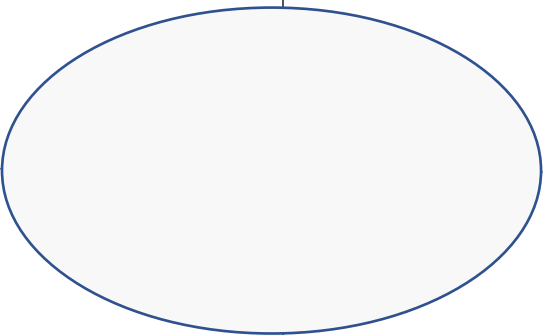
Name: _____

Graffiti Word Wall Vocabulary Activity

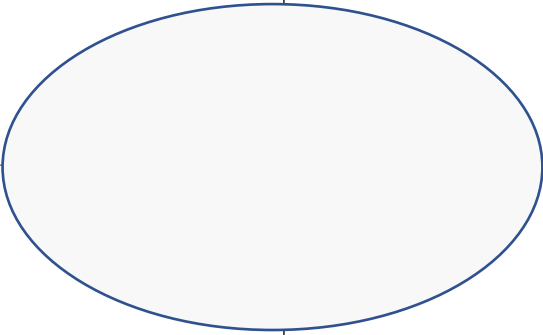
Directions:

Choose 10 words from the vocabulary provided by your teacher. For each word, write it in a graffiti style across the center of the piece of paper and then complete each corner of the graphic organizer: a definition in one corner, antonyms in another, a sentence highlighting the word's meaning in the third corner and an illustration showing the word's meaning in the fourth.

Definition:	Antonyms:
Sentence:	Illustration:

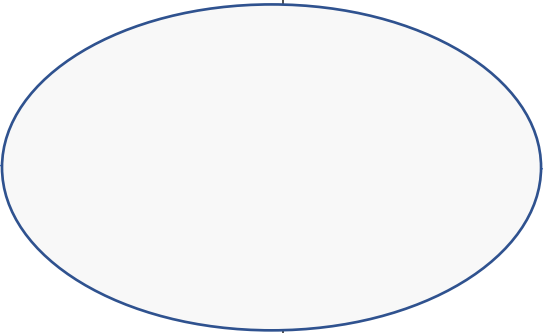


Definition:	Antonyms:
Sentence:	Illustration:

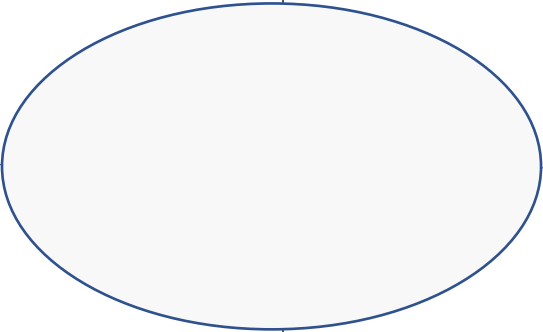


Name: _____

Definition:	Antonyms:
Sentence:	Illustration:

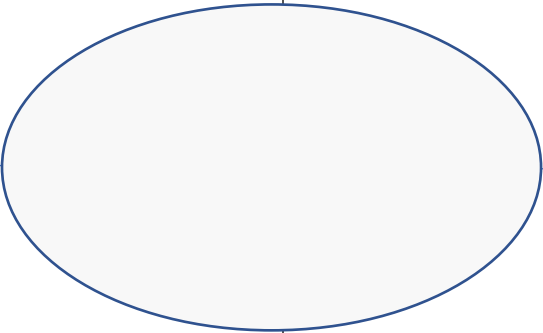


Definition:	Antonyms:
Sentence:	Illustration:

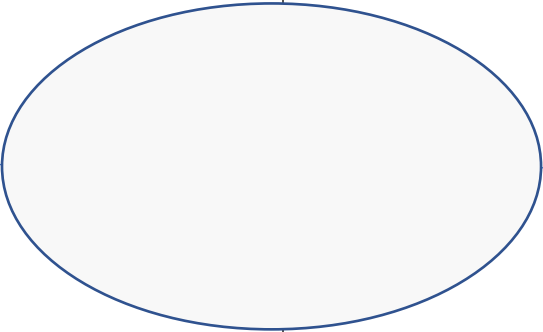


Name: _____

Definition:	Antonyms:
Sentence:	Illustration:

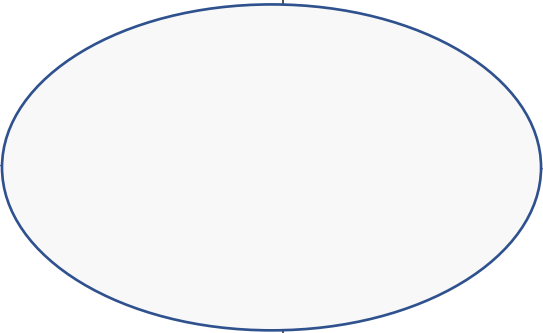


Definition:	Antonyms:
Sentence:	Illustration:

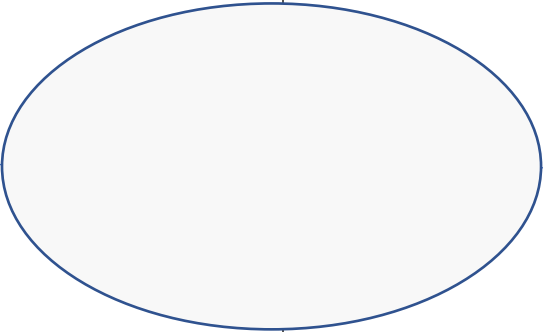


Name: _____

Definition:	Antonyms:
Sentence:	Illustration:

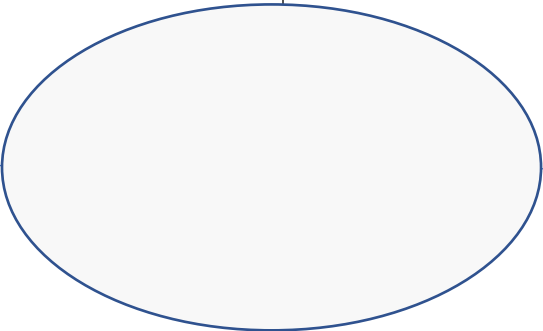


Definition:	Antonyms:
Sentence:	Illustration:

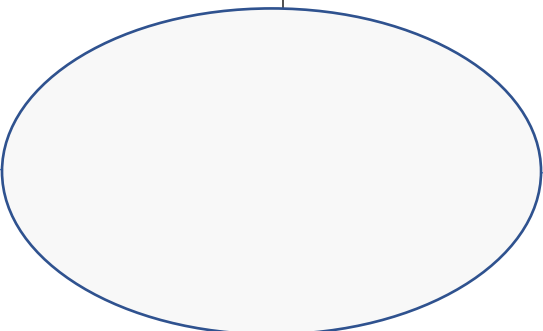


Name: _____

Definition:	Antonyms:
Sentence:	Illustration:



Definition:	Antonyms:
Sentence:	Illustration:



Name: _____

Vocabulary Checkers Activity

Directions:

Fill out the shaded spaces on the Vocabulary Checkers gameboard below with words from the list provided by your teacher. Then partner up and play checkers with another student (use anything you have available for the checkers pieces as long as you can tell the two sides apart from each other). To make a move, you have to say a sentence using the vocabulary word on the space to which you want to move. Likewise, if a player wants to “double jump,” the player must use both vocabulary words in the same sentence. If a word is used incorrectly, the move cannot be made, and you lose a turn. When finished, play again using your partner’s checkerboard.
