



SAMPLE MATERIAL

Core Reading Vocabulary List

Cahuenga Elementary, California

Topic: Teaching Literacy in English to K-5 English Learners

Practice: Teach Vocabulary

Third grade Cahuenga teachers created this reproducible, fold-up brochure as part of a larger framework based on the core reading program that keeps them organized in teaching academic content vocabulary. The highlighted vocabulary includes generic academic words that will be useful in many circumstances (“responsibility,” “originally,” and “examine”) as well as words that are specific to informational text in content areas (“omnivorous,” “migrating,” and “nocturnal”).

Unit 2 - City Wildlife

Story 5: Make Way for Ducklings -
pp. 176-184
Genre: Fantasy

Vocabulary Words

1. BECKONED - made a sign or signal to someone to have them come closer (p. 182)
2. BURSTING - filled and overflowing with strong emotion (p. 179)
3. COZY - warm and comfortable (p. 179)
4. DELIGHTED - very happy, pleased (p. 177)
5. ENORMOUS - very, very large; huge (p. 177)
6. RESPONSIBILITY - important job, duty (p. 180)

Unit 2 - City Wildlife

Story 6: City Superheroes -
pp. 186-192
Genre: Informational Text

Vocabulary Words

1. ENCOUNTER - meet face to face, meet suddenly (p. 186)
2. NOCTURNAL - sleeping in the day time and active at night (p. 187)
3. OBSERVANT - paying attention to details, watchful (p. 186)
4. OMNIVOROUS - feeds on both plants and animals (p. 187)
5. ORDINARY - normal, usual, regular (p. 186)
6. SOLUTIONS - answers; ways to fix a problem (p. 188)
7. ZOOLOGIST - scientist or biologist who studies animals but does not study plants or people (p. 186)

Unit 2 - City Wildlife

Story 7: Sunflowers for Tina -
pp. 196-210
Genre: Realistic Fiction

Vocabulary Words

1. BOUNTIFUL - plentiful, far more than enough (p. 200)
2. LUSH - flourishing as it grows; thick or rich (p. 200)
3. LUXURY - something that is really nice to have but is not necessary (p. 196)
4. WILTED - droopy, limp (p. 198)

Los Angeles Unified
School District
District 4



Open Court Reading
3rd Grade
Vocabulary Words
for Unit 2
Theme: City Wildlife

Unit 2 - City Wildlife

Story 1: City Critters -
pp. 124-130
Genre: Informational Text

Vocabulary Words

1. BIOLOGIST - person who studies how people, other animals, or plants live and grow (p. 125)
2. LABORATORIES - places where science studies and experiments are done (p. 127)
3. MIGRATING - moving from one place to another, usually when the seasons change (p. 126)
4. OBSERVATION - watching and looking, being careful to notice details (p. 129)
5. SKYSCRAPER - very tall building in the city (p. 125)
6. URBAN - having to do with a city or city life (p. 125)

Unit 2 - City Wildlife

Story 2: City Lots: Living Things in Vacant Spots - pp. 132-142
Genre: Informational Text

Vocabulary Words

1. DISCARDED - unwanted, put aside as having no use (p. 136)
2. DWELLINGS - houses or places where people live (p. 132)
3. EXAMINE - look at and study carefully (p. 134)
4. FLOURISHING - growing strong and healthy (p. 138)
5. FRAGRANT - smelling pleasant; good smelling (p. 137)

Unit 2 - City Wildlife

Story 3: The Boy Who Didn't Believe in Spring - pp. 144-152
Genre: Realistic Fiction

Vocabulary Words

1. CROPS - plants grown for food or to sell to make money (p. 145)
2. DECORATED - made beautiful by adding fancy things and frills (p. 149)
3. MOUND - small hill or pile of dirt, rocks, or other materials (p. 150)

Unit 2 - City Wildlife

Story 4: Urban Roosts: Where Birds Nest in the City - pp. 158-172
Genre: Informational Text

Vocabulary Words

1. ABANDONED - left behind or unused; either unprotected, unneeded, or unwanted (p. 160)
2. CAVITY - hollow place or hole (p. 161)
3. CLAMOR - loud noise, usually for a long time (p. 168)
4. ORIGINALLY - at first, at the beginning (p. 161)
5. SPECIES - kind or type of plant or animal that scientists group together because the plants or animals share many of the same characteristics (p. 161)
6. SUBURBS - area of homes, stores, and businesses that are near or right next to a city or urban area (p. 164)