

Lesson Skill: Using word maps to expand vocabulary

Strand Reading--vocabulary

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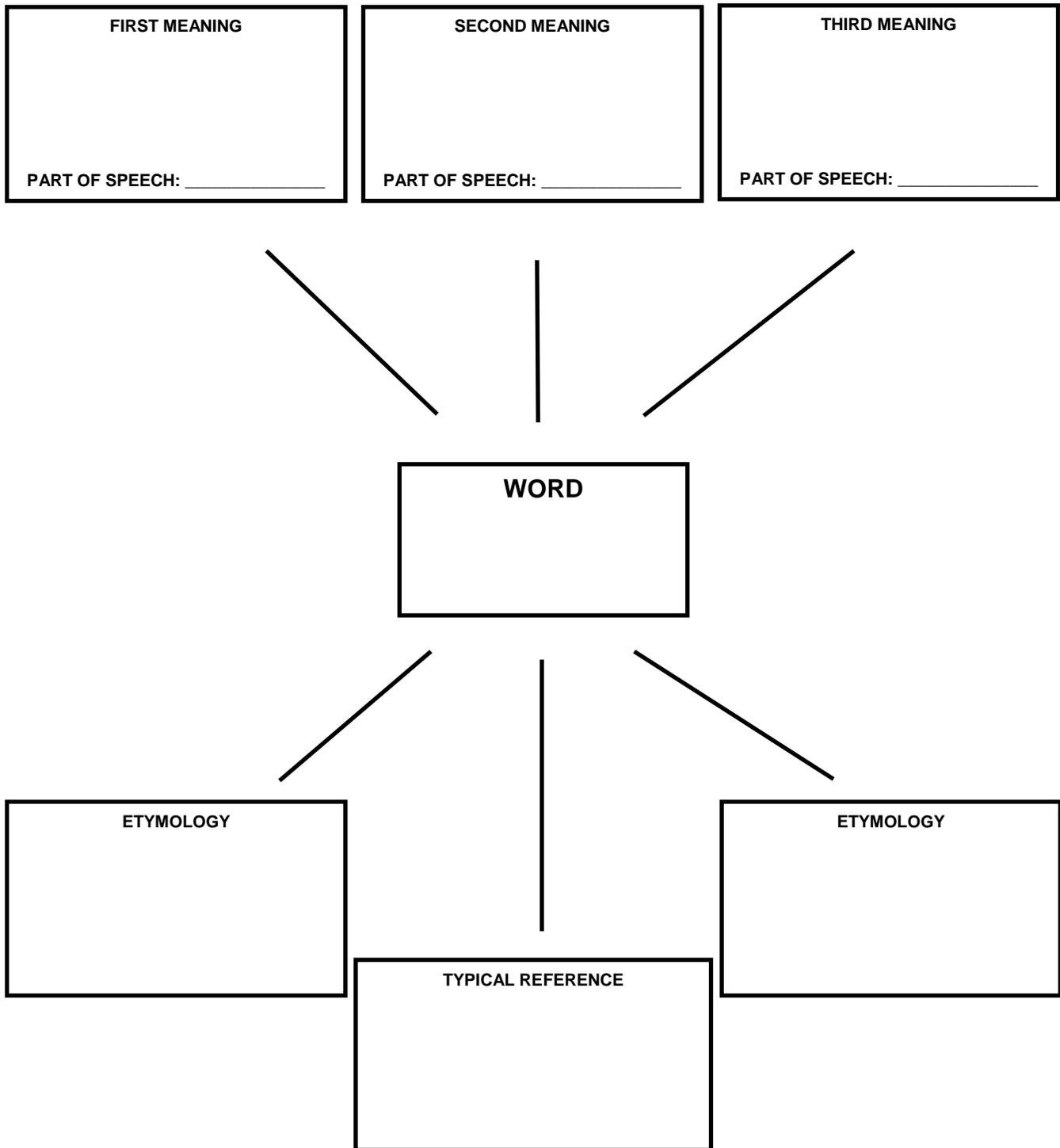
Materials

- Dictionaries
- Copies of the attached Word Map worksheet

Lesson

1. Instruct students that they will use a word map to record not only a word's dictionary definition(s), but also its etymology (root, affixes, and country of origin), its multiple meanings, its related words, and its alternate forms.
2. Distribute copies of the attached Word Map worksheets, and have students write the word *biology* in the Word box in the center of the page.
3. Have students look up *biology* in the dictionary, and direct them to the etymology of the word (typically found in brackets). Have students copy the word's etymology in the Etymology box, adding to the words for clarification (e.g., *G* means German).
4. Direct students to the first definition, and have them write it in the First Meaning box. Have them also identify and write the part of speech associated with that meaning. Then, have students repeat this step for the other definitions.
5. Have students write other words formed from this word, e.g., *biological*, *biologist*. Show them that these other forms can be found either within the word's entry itself or in separate entries near the main word.
6. Have students determine and record the typical reference for the word—in what context the word is typically used: e.g., science, careers, living things. The typical reference should be one or two words referring to the category of information where the word is most often found.
7. Have students create a sentence that uses the word contextually. Emphasize that the best sentence is not a repetition of a definition but a creative sentence that goes beyond the basic definition and includes context clues.
8. Repeat this exercise with other words, particularly words generated from a list of common roots, prefixes, and/or suffixes. For example, a list of words ending in *-ology* will teach students that the root means "the study of." Such lists can be found in teacher editions of textbooks, as well as elsewhere.

Word Map



Sentence using the word contextually:
