

Etymology / Language Arts (1 Semester Course) CURRICULUM

Course Description

Etymology is a language arts course studying the derivation of English words and word families from their roots in ancient and modern languages. Focus of this study is upon Greek, Latin, Anglo-Saxon, and Germanic languages and their association to the words and literature of today. Students analyze meanings of English words by examining prefixes, roots, and suffixes. Students analyze the connotative and denotative meanings of words in a variety of contexts and exercises. Students write about word history, patterns of language change, and word evolution through reports and presentations. Through the use of word games, word puzzles and literature, students discover the expansion of personal vocabulary enrichment and enhancement. Course work also includes question and vocabulary preparation that enables the student to prepare for examinations, such as the ACT and the SAT.

Course Objectives/Demonstrated Competencies

Students will be able to study the derivation of modern English words from their Latin, Greek, Anglo-Saxon, Germanic, and other Romance language roots.

Students will study and analyze the connotation, denotations, and histories of various assigned vocabulary words.

Students will be able to analyze word structure through the study of prefixes, roots, and suffixes.

Students will study college and technical level vocabulary as they pertain to preparation for SAT and ACT testing.

Students will study and discover the various origins of words as they enter the English language.

Students will distinguish homonyms, homographs, synonyms, and various confusing words to effectively use them in published texts.

Students will trace family heritage and the relationship to their surname and its appropriate language root.

Students will utilize word games and puzzles to enhance their use and enjoyment of the English language.

Indiana State Standards (that apply to Etymology)

English/Language Arts

Reading 1: Word Recognition, Fluency, and Vocabulary Development

Students apply their knowledge of word origins (words from other languages or from history or literature) to determine the meaning of new words encountered in reading and use those words accurately.

Writing : English Language Conventions

Students write using Standard English conventions.

Units of Instruction

Weekly vocabulary assignments from assigned text.

Dictionary, thesaurus, and word origin study and analysis.

SAT/ISTEP/ACT preparation exercises

Exercises studying and analyzing:

- Structure (prefixes, roots, suffixes)
- Origins of words (acronyms, blends, compounds, clipped words, coined words, eponyms)
- Word synonyms, homonyms, antonyms
- Distinguishing confusing words and usages

Course Assessments

Quizzes and tests covering vocabulary, origins, and structure

Group and individual projects and presentations

Electronic evaluations and participation

Participation in class discussion and daily activities

Course Syllabus and Units of Study

Week One – Week Six

Graded assignments in dictionary and etymology study

Vocabulary lessons covering origin and word study (Lessons 1 – 10)

Word puzzles and exercises reinforcing origin study

Week Seven – Week Nine

Graded exercises in structure(prefix, root, and suffix)

Vocabulary lessons covering various words from specific roots (Lessons 11 – 15)

Word puzzles and exercises reinforcing structure study

Review test and quiz reinforcing origin study

Nine Weeks Mid-term test reviewing origin and structure

Week Ten – Week Eleven

Assigned project of family genealogy and surname relationship

Power point detailing origin and etymology of specific/related words

Vocabulary lessons covering structure of specific roots (Lessons 16 – 20)

Reviews of origin and structure

Week Twelve – Week Sixteen

Work on group and individual projects creating word games and puzzles

Continue work on family surname project

Confusing word use (homonyms, homographs, synonyms, etc.)

Vocabulary lessons covering structure of specific roots and origin (Lessons 20 – 25)

SAT/ACT vocabulary exercises and test preparation strategies

Week Seventeen – Week Eighteen

Conclude individual and group projects

Review SAT/ACT vocabulary strategies
Review origin and structure
Mini-review of semester
Final test preparation and final test

Course Materials

Workbook – *Vocabulary for Achievement: Sixth Course*. Great Source, 2005.

Dictionary – *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary: 10th Edition, 1993*.
Merriam- Webster.

Supplementals – *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* (newspaper)
USA Today (newspaper)