Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide
Parts of a Dictionary Poster

Congratulations on your purchase of the Really Good Stuff® Parts of a Dictionary Poster.

Inside this Really Good Stuff® set you’ll find:
• Parts of a Dictionary Poster, 19" by 24"
• This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Parts of a Dictionary Activities
This poster presents ten important pieces of information that are available for each entry word in a dictionary. The following activities give students opportunities to become comfortable with using a dictionary for a variety of purposes. Before introducing the poster to students, make a copy of this Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide.

Introducing the Parts of a Dictionary Poster
Ask students “What is a dictionary?” Allow several students to respond, then ask “Why have you used a dictionary?” After soliciting additional responses, direct students to number their papers 1-10. Ask them to list ten pieces of information that they can expect to find when they look up a word in a dictionary. Allow time for students to work independently on this task. Then suggest that each student work with a partner to attempt to increase the number of items on each list. After an appropriate amount of time has passed, direct students to stop their work. This is an ideal time to introduce the Parts of a Dictionary Poster.

Math Connection: Ask how many students had guide words on their lists. Record that number on the chalkboard. Ask how many students had entry words on their lists. Record that number. Continue with the remaining eight pieces of information listed on the poster. Then have students create either a bar graph or a line graph to show their cumulative responses.

Technology: There are many free online dictionaries. Some have the advantage of offering audio pronunciations and color illustrations. Other features include: help with grammar, usage, and style; word origins; terms related to current events; vocabulary building tasks; crossword puzzle dictionary; words grouped according to subject (e.g. legal, medical); synonyms and antonyms. There’s a site that even advertises that it offers dictionaries in 150 different languages! Teachers may wish to collaborate with colleagues to identify a few such sites appropriate for their students’ use. Remember, students themselves are often a good source of such information, but teachers must guard against recommending any online site before it has been carefully evaluated for classroom use.

Note: Except for guide words, online dictionaries use the same pieces of information that are displayed on the Parts of a Dictionary Poster. Students should be expected to know that such information is available to them and where to access it.
DICTIONARY

Guide Words: the first and last entry words on a dictionary page

Directions: On the lines provided, write the guide words for each of the following groups of words appearing on a dictionary page. Hint: remember that dictionary entry words are alphabetized on each dictionary page.

Example: nativity

Guide Words: nation - nature

1. serve
   serve
   servant
   service
   sermon

Guide Words: __________ - __________

2. horrible
   horse
   horn
   horizon

Guide Words: __________ - __________

Guide Words: __________ - __________

Syllabication: shows how words are divided into syllables

Directions: Locate each of the following words in a dictionary, and answer the questions that follow.

Example: attempt

a. How many syllables does attempt have? __________
   b. Which syllable is stressed when spoken? ________

1. constitution
   a. How many syllables does constitution have? __________
   b. Which syllable is stressed when spoken? __________

2. principal
   a. How many syllables does principal have? __________
   b. Which syllable is stressed when spoken? __________

3. forest
   a. How many syllables does forest have? __________
   b. Which syllable is stressed when spoken? __________

4. rectangle
   a. How many syllables does rectangle have? __________
   b. Which syllable is stressed when spoken? __________
DICTIONARY

Part of Speech: the function of a word in a sentence

Directions: Use a dictionary to identify the different parts of speech for each word below. Then write sentences using the word as each different part of speech.

Example:
a. exchange   noun   (part of speech)
   I had an exchange to make at the pet store because I’d bought a poisonous snake.
   b. exchange   verb   (part of speech)
   The clerk would not exchange the snake for another one, but he refunded my money.

1. a. needle   ____________ (part of speech)

2. a. exercise   ____________ (part of speech)

3. a. escape   ____________ (part of speech)

Word Forms: other forms of an entry word

Directions: For each entry word listed below, write other forms of that word. Use a dictionary to check your spelling. The spellings of entry words are changed to create new word forms.

Example: sit       a. sat                  b. sitting         c. sits

1. control       a. ____________  b. ____________  c. ____________

2. dance         a. ____________  b. ____________  c. ____________

3. leave         a. ____________  b. ____________  c. ____________
DICTIONARY

**Definition:** the meaning of a word or term; words may have more than one meaning.

Directions: On the lines provided, write two different meanings for each word.

Example: **bank**  (entry word)

   a. a business establishment where money is kept or saved or invested.
   b. a steep natural incline.

1. **desert**  (entry word)
   a. ____________________________________________________________
   b. ____________________________________________________________

2. **fair**  (entry word)
   a. ____________________________________________________________
   b. ____________________________________________________________

3. **lead**  (entry word)
   a. ____________________________________________________________
   b. ____________________________________________________________

**Homographs:** words that are spelled the same but have different meanings and possibly different pronunciations.

Directions: Use context clues to write sentences that show the different meanings of each word below. Use a dictionary for help.

1. **bow**  (entry word)
   a. ____________________________________________________________
   b. ____________________________________________________________

2. **pound**  (entry word)
   a. ____________________________________________________________
   b. ____________________________________________________________

3. **count**  (entry word)
   a. ____________________________________________________________
   b. ____________________________________________________________