

Wheel of Fortune:



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This is a vocabulary game.
Its purpose is to focus the class' attention.

1. Procedure.

I usually start off by saying, "It must be time for Wheel of Fortune." I draw seven blanks on the board. The answer is in bold print. I say, "I am looking for a seven letter word derived from Latin which refers to . . ."

The clue. I do not read the first bold word. It is the answer.	I generally write the name of the student who I usually give one extra credit point to.
Country. A seven-letter word which is derived from Latin which refers to a region occupied by a particular race of people. A state. A person's native or adopted land.	
Patriotism. A ten-letter word derived from Latin literally meaning love of thy father country. Loyalty to one's native lands. A person who zealously defends his own country.	


Students are to raise their hands and guess the word. If the class is stumped, I generally add one letter at a time, starting with the last letter. I generally offer one extra credit point for each Wheel of Fortune word they get. I generally do two words to start off the day.

2. Theory. Wheel of Fortune is a good attention getter. It is a good warm-up activity. It helps focus the class' attention.

This focuses the class' attention. It builds their vocabulary. It requires higher-level thinking. I have played Wheel of Fortune in high schools, middle schools and elementary. It is generally well liked. The object is to focus their attention on today's topic, a vocabulary word and to get them to do some higher order thinking.

I am amazed at how much jargon and vocabulary words are connected with learning. Not only are they the building blocks of knowledge, but missing them hinders your learning. Misspelling them reduces association learning.

In general these are dictionary definitions. I adapt them slightly to fit the lesson plans. I add etymology because I am interested in that.

<p>Spartacus Wheel of Fortune intro e:\geog\middle\glad.wf</p>	
<p>Gladiator. A nine letter word derived from Latin which literally means a sword. In ancient Rome, one of a class of men who fought other men or animals in public for the entertainment of spectators. They were armed with deadly weapons and were slaves, captives or paid performers.</p>	
<p>Sword. A five letter word derived from Old High German which refers to a weapon such as a cutlass or rapier with a long blade for cutting or thrusting often used as a symbol of honor.</p>	
<p>Shield. A six letter word derived from Old English which refers to a broad piece of defensive armor carried on the arm. A defensive piece of body armor which was usually made of metal and used to block sword thrusts, arrows and spears.</p>	
<p>Spear. A five letter word derived from Greek which refers to a thrusting or throwing weapon with along shaft and sharp head or blade. A two-handed thrusting weapon which is often made out of a pointed stick. A sharp pointed instrument with barbs that is used to poke fish.</p>	
<p>Bow. A three letter word derived from Sanskrit which refers a weapon made out of a flexible strip of wood with a cord that connects the two ends in a bent manner, that is used to propel an arrow.</p>	
<p>Arrow. A five letter word derived from Latin which refers to a wooden missile weapon which s shot from a bow or crossbow, with a slender shaft, a pointed head and a feathered butt.</p>	

<p>Trident. A seven letter word derived from Latin which refers to a three pronged spear. A kind of spear with three barb pointed prongs, which was used for fishing, or as a gladiator weapon. The Roman god of the sea, Neptune, carried one of these scepters, which signified his marine supremacy or power.</p>	
<p>Slave. A five letter word derived from Slavic which refers to a bond servant who is divested of all freedom and personal rights. A human being who is owned by and wholly subject to the will of another as by capture, purchase or birth.</p>	
<p>Noble. A five letter word derived from Latin which refers to a person who has a hereditary rank or title. A person of higher social class in England.</p>	
<p>Colosseum. A nine letter word derived from Latin which refers to the amphitheater in Rome which was used for gladiatorial combats, fights of wild beats, hunting and other sports. It was begun by Vespasian in 75 AD and was finished by Titus about five years later. It seated an estimated 45,000 spectators. Its name refers to its huge size.</p>	
<p>Crass. A five letter word derived from Latin which refers to someone who has such grossness of mind as precludes delicacy and discrimination. One who is insensitive or stupid in the use of brutal power as opposed to one who is delicate, diplomatic, brilliant or sensitive in the use of power. One who is gross, thick, or coarse in the use of power. One who is grossly stupid, dull, ignorant or obtuse in the use of power. This Latin word is based on the Roman leader, Marcus Licinius Crassius, who is played by the Oscar winning English actor, Laurence Olivier, in the movie, Spartacus.</p>	
<p>Dictator. An eight letter word derived from Latin which refers to a person who is granted absolute emergency power, especially one who is appointed by the senate or</p>	

<p>ancient Rome. One who holds complete autocratic control. One who rules absolutely and often oppressively. A ruler who is able to direct the policies of a state. In ancient Rome, a magistrate who is appointed by the Senate in times of emergency and invested with absolute authority. One who prescribes rules for others to follow. One who reads aloud or speaks words for another person to write down. This Latin word is based on the same Roman root word as dictation. One who is able to dictate or direct the affairs of the state without outside influence or interference.</p>	
<p>Tyrant. A five letter word derived from Latin which refers to an absolute ruler who is unrestrained by law or constitution. A usurper of sovereignty. A ruler who exercises absolute power oppressively or brutally. A ruler who makes a harsh use of their authority or power. This Latin word is based on the Roman name, Tyrannus.</p>	