

<p>topic: a subject that people talk or write about</p>
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Mars Rover Model Celebration – Lesson Plan

Introduction:

One of the new vocabulary words for this unit is “topic”. The word topic means “a subject that people talk or write about”. Typically, a topic is only a single word or a few words long. For example, the topic we have been discussing over the past few days is “Mars Rover”.

Another word for topic you may have heard before is theme. Let’s look at a picture that will help us understand the meaning of the word “topic”. The umbrella is like our topic. It is the subject that covers all of the pictures underneath. Under this topic or umbrella, you can see pictures of people playing basketball, baseball, hockey, football, tennis, volleyball and dozens of other activities. All of these fit under the topic sports, because all of the activities shown are different kinds of sports.

Example:

Here is another example: I am going to say some words: STICKY, GREASY, SMOOTH, BUMPY, ROUGH. All of these would fit under the topic “texture”. Let’s do another. Raise your hand as soon as you can tell me the topic—the way in which all of these words are related. (*Teacher: read these one at a time and allow students to consider each*): POLLINATION, SCENTS, PISTIL, STAMEN, BUD, COLOR, PETALS. That’s right. The topic is “flowers”.

Reflection:

I am going to say some words. Think about the topic that would explain how all the words are related. If the last word I say is a good topic for the other items, put your thumbs up and say TOPIC. If the last word is not a good topic, put your thumbs down and remain silent. Then raise your hand to suggest a better topic.

- chocolate chip, ginger, oatmeal, snicker doodle—**types of cookies** (thumbs up)
- Envelope, address, stamp, post office—**mail** (thumbs up)
- Poetry, biography, fiction, short story— **spelling** (thumbs down—literary genres or types of writing)
- Bake, fry, broil, grill—**fish** (thumbs down—ways to cook)

(*Teachers: If students do not come up with the correct answers, review the words and help them understand why their answer isn’t correct. Have them try again or provide the answer.*)

Make it personal:

Consider how knowing your topic can help you today as you search for information on your Mars Rover mission. (*Allow students time to reflect on this.*) Share your thinking with a neighbor. Afterwards, I will ask several of you to share your best ideas.