



# 5th Grade Building Academic Vocabulary

Compiled by The Office of Education and Learning, Genesee Intermediate  
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# ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Dear Educators,

In response to the Genesee County Superintendents' inquiry about modifying current efforts toward raising student achievement, the Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD) Office of Education and Learning is implementing the Building Academic Vocabulary Project.

This project is based on research by Dr. Robert Marzano (2005) and described in depth in his book *Building Academic Vocabulary*. In his book he says,

*Teaching specific terms in a specific way is probably the strongest action a teacher can take to ensure that students have the academic background knowledge they need to understand the content they will encounter in school. When all the teachers in a school focus on the same academic vocabulary and teach it in the same way, the school has a powerful comprehensive approach. When all the teachers in a district embrace and use the approach, it becomes even more powerful.*

Through his research, Marzano found that “one of the most crucial services that teachers can provide, particularly for students who do not come from academically advantaged backgrounds, is systematic instruction in important academic terms”. He developed a systematic, six step process for teaching vocabulary.

In *Building Academic Vocabulary* a list of 7,923 terms across 11 subject areas are offered as a starting point. This was one of two primary resources used in compiling the list of academic vocabulary for each grade level. The second primary resource was the State of Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs). The two lists were compared and divided into two specific categories: Critically Important and Instructionally Important.

Critically Important words are terms that are crucial or key to the understanding of a given subject area and in most cases are language found on the MEAP and MME. Instructionally Important words are terms used by teachers and recognized by students, but do not require focused attention or an in-depth understanding by students.

The hope of the Education and Learning Department is that teachers will use these lists as a starting point for teaching students academic vocabulary. We have included Marzano's 6 step process for reference and will continue to develop additional tools and resources that can be used to teach students academic vocabulary.

Sincerely,

The Office of Education and Learning, Genesee Intermediate School District

## **Six Step Process for Building Academic Vocabulary—Dr. Robert Marzano**

### **STEP ONE: The teacher will give a description, explanation, or example of the new term.**

- Provide learners information about the term
- Determine what the learner already knows about the term.
- Ask learners to share what they already know as a means of monitoring misconceptions.
- Ask learners to share what they already know to use this knowledge as a foundation for more learning.
- Utilize examples, descriptions, but not definitions. Definitions are not a recommended method for vocabulary instruction as they do not provide learners an informal, natural way to learn new vocabulary.
- Instruct learning of proper noun terms through identifying characteristics of the proper noun.

### **STEP TWO: The teacher will ask the learner to give a description, explanation, or example of the new term in his/her own words.**

- Remind learners to not copy, but use their own words.
- Monitor students to determine if any confusion exists.
- Provide more descriptions, explanations, or examples if necessary.
- Request that students record these in the vocabulary notebook. These notebooks can travel with the learner as he/she moves through each grade level and become a compilation of vocabulary terms mastered.

### **STEP THREE: The teacher will ask the learner to draw a picture, symbol, or locate a graphic to represent the new term.**

- Provide learners a nonlinguistic method of vocabulary mastery.
- Share examples of other learners' drawings or allow students to work in teams to help those who complain that they cannot draw.
- Teach the concept of speed drawing for those who labor too long over their work.
- Ask learner to share their work.
- Use graphics from magazines or the internet.
- Illustration terms through symbols, drawing the actual term, illustration with a cartoon, or drawing an example of the term should be encouraged.

### **STEP FOUR: The learner will participate in activities that provide more knowledge of the words in their vocabulary notebooks. (For notebook and academic notebook worksheet go to: <http://www.jc-schools.net/tutorials/vocab/notebook.htm>) (Teacher Led)**

- Students continually reexamine their understanding of a given term
- Activities should be planned that engage students explicitly in the focused review of targeted terms.
- Provide opportunities to add to, or revise, the entry for the term in their vocabulary notebooks

### **STEP FIVE: The learner will discuss the term with other learners. (Teacher Guided) (Student Led)**

- Interacting with other people about what we are learning deepens the understanding of everyone involved
- Teacher provides a structure for the students to have informal and unstructured discussions
- Major goal is to encourage students to help each other identify and clear up misconceptions and confusions.
- Discussing the terms with their peers helps them to detect their errors and correct their work.

#### **Pair-Share Strategy:**

- THINK: Allow think time for learners to review their own descriptions and images of the terms.
- PAIR: Put learners in pairs to discuss their descriptions, images, and any new info related to the terms.
- SHARE: Provide opportunities for groups to share aloud and discuss conceptions and misconceptions.
- Monitor as learners help each other identify and clear up confusions about new terms.

### **STEP SIX: The learner will participate in games that provide more reinforcement of the new term. A variety of games are available at <http://www.jc-schools.net/tutorials/vocab/notebook.htm> PowerPoint Games, Word Game Boards, Excel Games, WORDO, Twister, Fly Swat.**

- Walk around the room and check their work when learners are working on their vocabulary notebooks
- Check the notebooks to evaluate accuracy.
- Listen for misconceptions when learners are playing games/activities.
- Provide an opportunity for learners to work together.

## Fifth Grade English Language Arts

### Critically Important:

advertising  
antecedents  
anticlimax  
climax  
editorials  
electronic resources  
exaggeration  
experiments

facial expressions  
global theme  
historical fiction  
inflections  
metaphors  
mystery  
narrator  
paraphrase

position piece  
principles  
science fiction  
symbol  
synthesizing  
tall tales  
universal truth

### Instructionally Important:

atlases  
misspeak  
multisyllabic

shaping opinions  
style  
substantive questions

voice modulations

## Fifth Grade Mathematics

### Critically Important:

angle pairs formed on a  
line  
angles of a triangle  
axes (x, y)  
billion (place value)  
coordinate grid  
coordinates  
cube number  
cubic unit  
degree (angle  
measurement)

divisibility  
equivalent ratios  
exponent  
exponential notation  
least common  
denominator  
line graph  
ordered pair  
origin  
percentage  
power

prime factorization  
quantity  
ratio  
scale  
thousandths  
(place value)  
turn (e.g., 1/4, 1/2, 3/4,  
full)  
unknown  
variable  
volume

### Instructionally Important:

complementary angles  
conversion  
convert  
cubic centimeter ( $\text{cm}^3$ )  
cubic meters ( $\text{m}^3$ )

cubic yards ( $\text{yd}^3$ )  
exterior triangle angles  
hundred million  
(place value)  
interior triangle angles

quadrants  
supplementary angles  
ten million (place value)  
vertical angles

## Fifth Grade Science

### Unit 1 – Measuring Changes in Motion

#### Critically Important:

acceleration  
applied force  
balanced forces  
change of direction  
change of motion  
change of speed  
constant speed  
deceleration  
direction of motion

force  
force strength  
friction  
graph  
gravitational force  
inertia  
kinetic energy  
lever  
magnetic attraction

magnetic repulsion  
mass  
Newton's laws  
non-zero net force  
pulley  
relative position  
speed  
unbalanced force  
zero net force

#### Instructionally Important:

inclined plane  
magnitude

mechanical motion  
simple machine

spring scale  
velocity

## Fifth Grade Science

### Unit 2 – Animal Systems

#### Critically Important:

circulatory  
digestive  
egg  
elimination  
energy  
excretory

muscular  
nervous  
physical traits  
reproductive  
respiratory  
skeletal

sperm  
survival  
systems  
transport

#### Instructionally Important:

absorption  
arteries  
behavioral characteristics  
brain  
esophagus  
feces  
heart  
kidneys  
large intestine  
liver  
Motor nerves  
movement  
muscles  
ovaries

response  
sensory nerves  
small intestine  
spinal cord  
stimulus  
stomach  
support  
tendons  
testes  
urethra  
urine  
uterus  
veins

## Fifth Grade Science

### Unit 3 – Evolution and Traits of Organisms

#### Critically Important:

acquired traits  
adaptation  
anatomical features  
catastrophic events  
environmental factors  
fossil

genetic relatedness  
habit  
heredity  
inherited traits  
instinct  
invertebrate

learned behavior  
natural selection  
nocturnal  
vertebrate

#### Instructionally Important:

aquatic  
cold-blooded  
external structure

flowering  
internal structure  
non-flowering

terrestrial  
warm-blooded

## Fifth Grade Science

### Unit 4 - Position and Motion of Objects in the Sky

#### Critically Important:

asteroids  
axis  
comets  
constellations  
dwarf planet  
eclipse

gravity  
lunar  
phases  
planet  
revolution  
rotation

seasons  
solar  
solar system  
stars  
tides  
tilt

#### Instructionally Important:

celestial  
circular  
elliptical  
Jupiter  
latitude

Mars  
Mercury  
model  
Neptune  
North Star

satellite  
Saturn  
Uranus  
Venus

## **Fifth Grade Social Studies—General History**

### **Critically Important:**

cause and effect	colonization	ethnic diversity
colonial government	Columbian Exchange	revolution
colonial self-government	cultural differences	settlement patterns

### **Instructionally Important:**

conflict	right of revolution
generalization	secondary source
human environment interaction	settlement
imperialism	slavery
informational text	staple crops
migration	three worlds
military advantages and disadvantages	triangular trade
primary source	turning point
region	

## **Fifth Grade Social Studies—US History**

### **Critically Important:**

Anti-Federalists  
Articles of Confederation

Constitutional  
Convention

Federalists  
Framers

### **Instructionally Important:**

federalism  
loyalists

patriot  
Royal Government

## **Fifth Grade Social Studies—Geography**

### **Critically Important:**

family structures

### **Instructionally Important:**

cultural diffusion  
desert

perspective  
regional differences

## Fifth Grade Social Studies—Civics

### Critically Important:

consent of governed  
Declaration of Independence  
government by consent  
liberty  
limited government  
political developments  
representative democracy

representative government  
role of religion  
self government  
sovereignty  
tyranny  
unalienable rights

### Instructionally Important:

amendment  
federalism

political institutions  
treaty

## **Fifth Grade Social Studies—Economics**

### **Critically Important:**

economic development

labor forces

### **Instructionally Important:**

currencies

diversified economy

trade policies

## Resources

Marzano, Robert, and Debra Pickering. *Building Academic Vocabulary: Teacher*. Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2005. Print.

Marzano, Robert. *Building Background Knowledge for Academic Achievement*. Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2004. Print.

Michigan Department of Education Grade Level Content Expectations.  
[http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-28753\\_33232---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-28753_33232---,00.html)

Michigan Department of Education Science Companion Documents.  
[http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-28753\\_38684\\_28760\\_49215---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-28753_38684_28760_49215---,00.html)

Michigan Citizenship Collaborative Curriculum. [www.micitizenshipcurriculum.org](http://www.micitizenshipcurriculum.org)

MCrel 2004 –Midcontinent Research for Education and Learning

MDE with Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics vocabulary list –  
[www.mictm.org](http://www.mictm.org) – membership only section - K - 8

Genesee County Mathematics Curriculum Guide's vocabulary listings K – 12  
GLCEs and HSCEs

## **Vocabulary Websites**

<http://jc-schools.net/tutorials/vocab/> (Vocabulary)

<http://jc-schools.net/tutorials/vocab/ppt-vocab.html> (PowerPoint games)

<http://jc-schools.net/tutorials/PPT-games/> (PowerPoint games)

<http://jc-schools.net/tutorials/gameboard.htm> (Ready made games and game boards)

<http://www.u-46.org/roadmap/dyncat.cfm?catid=246> (Overview, lesson design sheet, word lists, examples...)

<http://sde.state.ok.us/curriculum/BAV/default.html> (Oklahoma State Department of Education—word lists, web links to other resources, PowerPoints, etc.)

<http://jc-schools.net/tutorials/vocab/excel-vocab.html> (Excel games)

<http://literacytoolbelt.tripod.com/The%20Fab%20Five/The%20Fab%20Five%20Power%20Points.htm> (Vocabulary Information)

<http://www.pppst.com/> (PowerPoints that can be used and/or adapted. Listed by subject.)

[http://teach.fcps.net/trt14/Power%20Point%20Games/power\\_point\\_games.htm](http://teach.fcps.net/trt14/Power%20Point%20Games/power_point_games.htm) (Games, templates, and instruction for games)

<http://projects.coe.uga.edu/lrieber/wwild/search/PPT-search-results.asp> (PowerPoint games)

<http://innovativocab.wikispaces.com/Building+Academic+Vocabulary> (Six step process, Preliminary Report on Building Academic Vocabulary, Process for Improving Instruction in Vocabulary, Academic Vocabulary—Six Steps Info.)

<http://www.kirkwoodschools.org/keysor/staff/vocabulary/> (General Information)

<http://www.wordnik.com/> (Comprehensive dictionary. Need to sign up for a free account.)

<http://www.vocabulary.com/> (Vocabulary resources)

[http://people.uncw.edu/ertzbergerj/ppt\\_games.html](http://people.uncw.edu/ertzbergerj/ppt_games.html) (PowerPoint games and game templates)

<http://facstaff.uww.edu/jonesd/games/> (PowerPoint games—easy to assemble educational games using technology)

<http://www.netxv.net/esc/technology/InstructionalTechnology/templates/powerpoint.htm>  
(PowerPoint game templates that you can download)

<http://teach.fcps.net/trt10/PowerPoint.htm> (PowerPoint Activities)

<http://www.getworksheets.com/samples/powerpoint/games/> (PowerPoint Classroom Game Templates)

<http://www.elainefitzgerald.com/gametemplates.htm> (PowerPoint game templates)

<http://it.coe.uga.edu/wwild/pptgames/creating.htm> (PowerPoint templates)

[http://www.hardin.k12.ky.us/res\\_techn/sbjarea/math/MATHJeopardy.htm](http://www.hardin.k12.ky.us/res_techn/sbjarea/math/MATHJeopardy.htm) (Math Jeopardy Games)

<http://young.springdaleschools.org/WebsitesTeachersJeopardy.htm> (Jeopardy Game Websites)

<http://www.isd12.org/gle/Jeopardy/Games.htm> (PowerPoint Jeopardy Games created by 5<sup>th</sup> graders)

<http://www.elainefitzgerald.com/powerpoint.htm> (PowerPoint Files)

<http://www.littlewoodscasino.com/education-resources/power-point-games.htm>  
(Educational PowerPoint Games)

<http://www.googlesyndicatedsearch.com/u/fcrr?q=vocabulary&domains=www.fcrr.org&itesearch=www.fcrr.org> (Florida Center for Reading Research—Lots of information on Vocabulary)

[http://vocabulary.co.il/blog/learning\\_vocabulary/category/building-vocabulary-skills/](http://vocabulary.co.il/blog/learning_vocabulary/category/building-vocabulary-skills/)  
(Vocabulary Building Games)

<http://www.murray.k12.ga.us/teacher/kara%20leonard/TeacherTools.htm> (click on Game Templates link)

<http://www.kindergarten-lessons.com/teach-math-vocabulary.html> (Ideas to teach math vocabulary to kindergarten and preschool children)

[http://www.hardin.k12.ky.us/res\\_techn/countyJeopardygames.htm](http://www.hardin.k12.ky.us/res_techn/countyJeopardygames.htm) (Jeopardy games in all content areas)

[http://www.lessonplanet.com/search?grade=all&keywords=vocabulary&media=lesson&rating=3&search\\_type=related](http://www.lessonplanet.com/search?grade=all&keywords=vocabulary&media=lesson&rating=3&search_type=related) (Vocabulary Lessons)

<http://www.vickiblackwell.com/ppttemplates.html> (PowerPoint templates)

<http://www.eslprintables.com/buscador/buscarppt.asp?eje=30&page=2&nivel=any&age=0&tipo=any&contents=VOCABULARY&orderby=#thetop> (Vocabulary PowerPoints, worksheets, and exercises)

<http://www.burlesonisd.net/it/resources/wordpress/?cat=46> (Teacher templates and games)

<http://www.time4learning.com/readingpyramid/vocabulary.htm> (Building Vocabulary Skills--Games and Activities)

## **On-Line Dictionary Websites**

<http://www.google.com/landing/searchtips/#dictionary>

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

<http://dictionary.reference.com/>

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/>

<http://www.yourdictionary.com/>

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>

<http://www.websters-online-dictionary.org/>

<http://kids.yahoo.com/reference/dictionary/english>

<http://www.encyclopedia.com>

<http://www.visuwords.com>



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