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INTRODUCTION

The following activities are starting points for creative and productive thinking. They are, first of all, based on a set of words that relate to a specific topic. Children benefit from the following activities and processes:

1. Listing attributes of a thing, an issue, etc. and then categorizing the attributes and coming up with a generalization, rule or definition.
2. Exploring discrepancies and analogies.
3. Evaluating issues and situations.
4. Exploring examples of change and habit.
5. Learning tolerance for ambiguity.
6. Learning skills of search.
7. Studying creative people and processes.
8. Discussing provocative issues and questions.

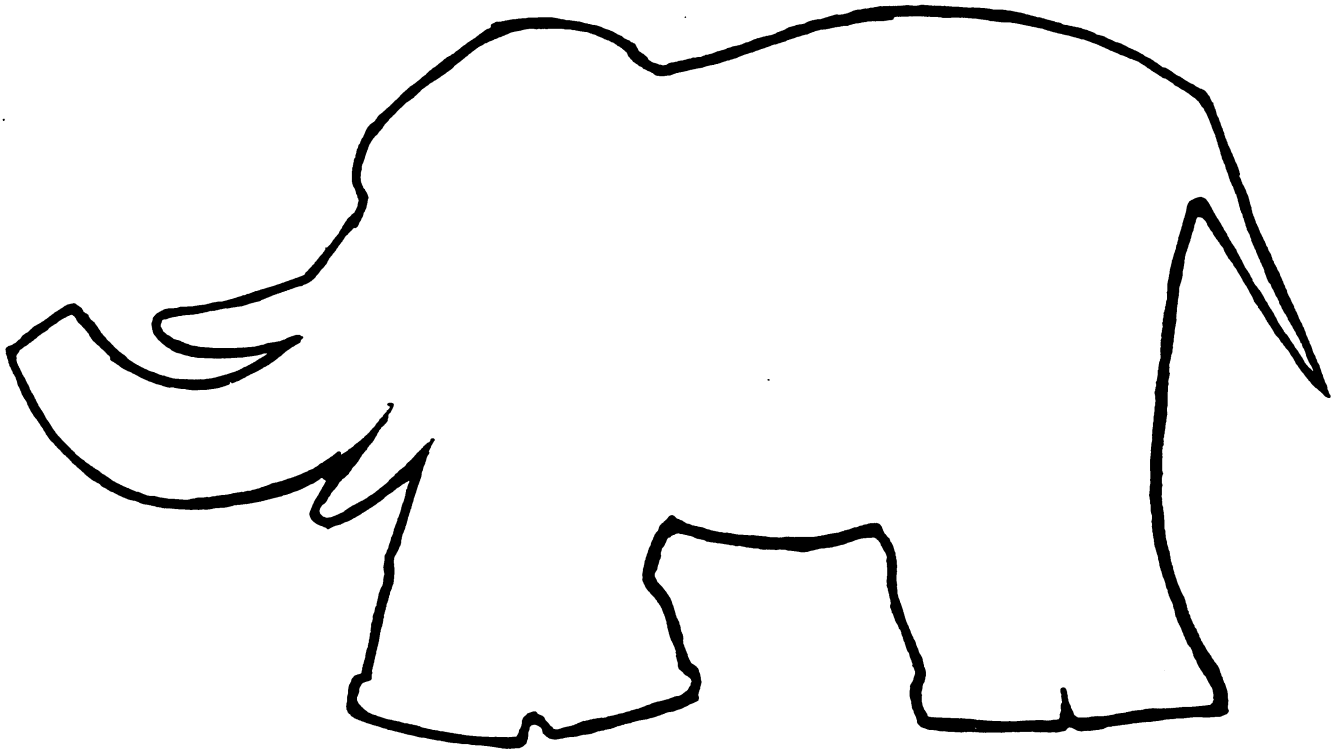
Feel free to create more activities for these units. Many times one idea will work for all. For instance, brainstorm all of the attributes of each of the following words:

Animal
Art
Food
Future or change
Geography
Language
Money
Shelter
Sport
Weather

Categorize the responses—come up with a definition. Then, as a group, get into the affective applications, such as “food for thought,” “what is food for the soul,” etc. Go beyond the cognitive definitions for the word.

A new way to expand your student’s vocabulary . . . with whole-brain learning . . . critical and creative thinking, too!

Animal Arrays



VISUALIZATION

Get into a position where you feel relaxed . . . close your eyes. Take a few slow deep breaths. Feel your body beginning to relax . . . let your mind clear itself.
(pause)

Picture an animal that is trapped in some way . . . imagine a situation in which you might feel trapped . . . it could be having to go to the dentist . . . or being involved with people with whom you don't wish to be involved. What are your feelings? How does your body feel? Where could you go to feel untrapped? What sounds "free" you? What textures and smells make you feel safe? Create yourself in a place where you feel free . . . enjoy the feelings. Look around you . . . do colors look brighter? How has your breathing changed? Do you feel safer, lighter, more confident? Enjoy these feelings for awhile. The next time you feel trapped, return these same freeing feelings and thoughts.

Now, as you become refreshed and alert, imagine yourself clear and strong. Slowly open your eyes, and return to the present.

Animal Arrays

WORKSHEET

Directions: In order to gain thorough familiarity with each vocabulary word, complete this worksheet. When it is completed choose your Activity Cards. Keep track of your progress on your Record Sheet.

VOCABULARY

GAGGLE

MOB

SLOTH

PRIDE

COLONY

HERD

GANG

TROOP

FLOCK

COVEY

CLUTCH

BEVY

BRACE

MUSTER

SKULK

NIDE

CAST

DROVE

DRIFT

POD

1. Define each word.
2. Use each word in a sentence.
3. Find at least one synonym and one antonym for each word. (You may need to do some creative thinking . . . have fun!)
4. Create as many categories as possible for the vocabulary words. List the words under as many categories as you can imagine.