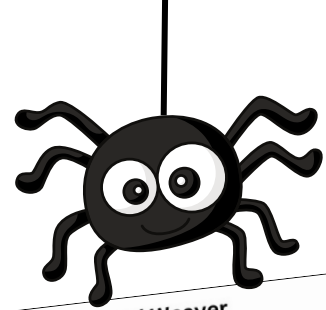
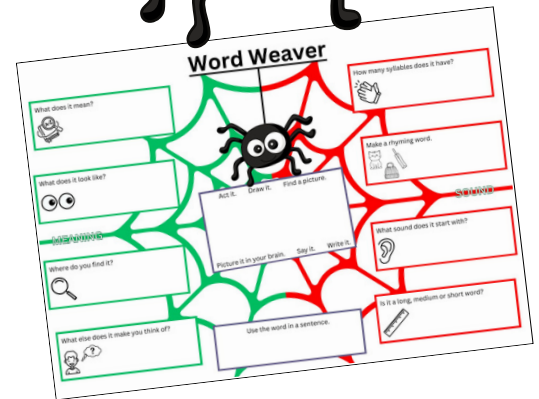


Word Weaver



Who would benefit from 'Word Weaver'?

- Word Weaver is a Word Map. It will benefit all children, but it is particularly helpful for those who require a more structured approach to learning vocabulary.
- Word Weaver teaches children how to be 'Word Wise' by exploring the **meaning (semantic)** and **sound (phonological)** properties of words.



Introducing the Word Weaver concept:

- Word Weaver is a spider who loves to catch words so they **stay firmly in your memory**.
- Word Weaver creates a **word web** to **capture new words**.
- The web needs to be strong and so it is made up of **two kinds of threads**:
 - Meaning threads**: These threads are **green** and catch information about the word's **meaning**.
 - Sound threads**: These threads are **red** and catch information about the word's **sound**.
- Word Weaver **links** the **meaning** and **sound** threads to create a **strong web** that catches the word and **keeps it in your memory**.

Using the Word Weaver resource:

- Name the word that you are going to learn. For example, 'skeleton.' Tell the child that Word Weaver is going to help them to learn about that word. Ensure that the child has some knowledge of the word's meaning before you begin, otherwise it will be difficult to extend the child's knowledge of this word.
- Write the word** in the central box that Word Weaver is holding. Encourage the child to write the word after you, then explore the other prompts in the box:
 - Act it**: Can the child think of a meaningful action or gesture to represent the word?
 - Draw it** or **Find a picture** of the word: This could be via an online search.
 - Picture it in your brain**: Explain to the child that making a picture in their brain will help them to remember the word.
 - Say it**: Encourage the child to say the word out loud up to three times.
- Tell the child that they are going to help Word Weaver create a strong web. First, look at the **green 'meaning'** thread questions. Answer the **meaning** questions together and write or draw the child's answers in each box.
- Once you have answered the **green 'meaning'** questions, summarise the child's answers in one sentence. For example, "Our bodies are made up of bones underneath our skin, these bones are white and hard, they form our skeleton, the word skeleton makes you think of Halloween."
- Then tell the child that you are going to make Word Weaver's web even stronger by answering the **red 'sound'** thread questions. Answer the sound questions together, writing or drawing the answers in each box.
- Summarise the child's **red 'sound'** answers in one sentence. For example, "Skeleton has three syllables, it rhymes with 'melatun' (nonsense word), it starts with 'sk', and it is a medium-sized word."

Act it.	Draw it.	Find a picture.
Picture it in your brain.	Say it.	Write it.

What does it mean?

What does it look like?

Where do you find it?

What else does it make you think of?

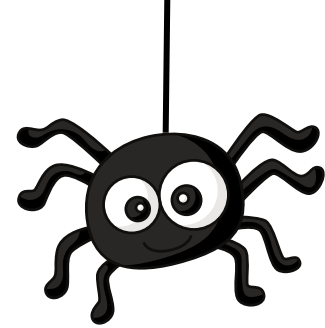
How many syllables does it have?

Make a rhyming word.

What sound does it start with?

Is it a long, medium or short word?

Word Weaver



Using the Word Weaver resource (continued):

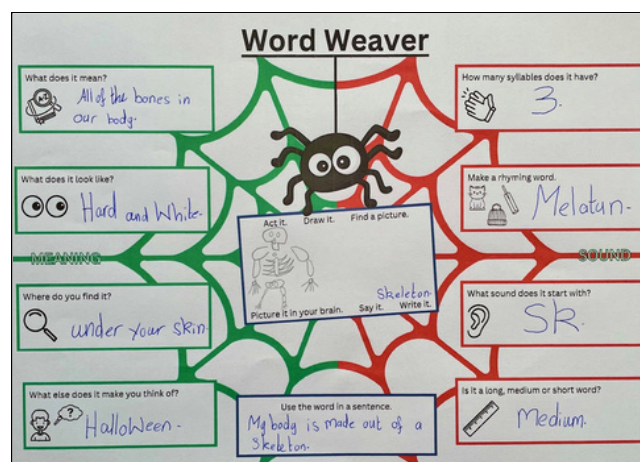
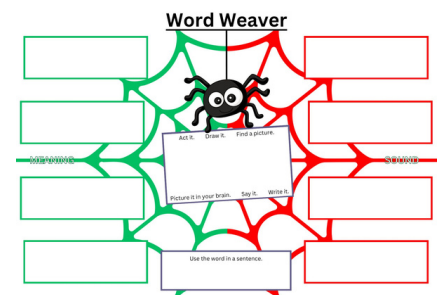
- Finally, encourage the child to **use the word in a sentence**. For example, "My body is made out of a skeleton."

Word Weaver top tips:

- The child may need support and prompts to help them to answer the questions. The adult can extend the child's word learning by adding their own information after the child. For example, "Yes, our skeleton helps us to stand upright."
- If the child finds writing or drawing challenging, it is fine for the adult to help scribe the child's ideas.
- Different **meaning** and **sound** prompts suit different words better. There is a selection of Word Weaver cue cards to choose from.
- In time, encourage the child to use the blank Word Weaver template to start to generate their own 'word webs'. This will promote independence and help the child take the lead.
- Select words to teach that have the greatest relevance to the child's curriculum learning.
- Aim to pre-teach topic words before the child encounters them in the classroom.
- Children who struggle to learn and remember words may need to revisit the same word several times.
- Review the child's knowledge of taught words regularly. For example, "Tell me what you remember about the word skeleton," "Tell me 2 meaning facts," "Tell me two sound facts," "Use the word skeleton in a sentence."

Use the word in a sentence.

What does it look like? 	What kind of word is it? 	Is it a long, medium or short word?
What parts does it have? 	What group does it belong to? 	Break it into parts (i.e. prefix, suffix, root)
What does it do? 	What else does it make you think of? 	
What do you do with it? 	What other words does it make you think of? 	
Where do you find it? 		



Measuring progress:

- Can the child tell you 1-3 facts about the word's **meaning** properties and **sound** attributes?
- Can the child remember and use taught vocabulary in their speaking and writing?
- Can the child explain Word Weaver's vocabulary learning strategies in their own words (e.g. be 'Word Wise').