**Domain:**

Access to information from written texts

Benchmarks:

Understand the general meaning, main ideas, and sequence of events in a text and use this knowledge as needed

Use simple information tools such as a glossary, a simplified learner's dictionary, and a table of contents

Description:

In this task, pupils read a text about space travel, look up words in the accompanying glossary and answer questions demonstrating their understanding of the text.

In Part One, pupils add words to a glossary using their alphabetizing skills.

In Part Two, pupils choose three words with multiple meanings which appear in the text and look them up in the glossary. Pupils use the glossary to answer questions about the words they chose. Finally, in Part Three, pupils answer questions to demonstrate their understanding of the text.

Rationale for choice of topic:

Space travel is a topic that interests many children of this age.

Alphabetizing skills are fundamental to the use of any information source (dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc.). Many English words have two or more meanings. Pupils should be aware of this and know how to use available tools in order to clarify word meanings.

Suggestions for implementation (prior to and/or during):

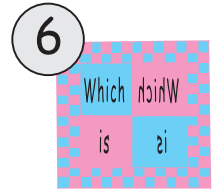
Practice reading short texts, answering questions about them, and suggesting alternate titles. Discuss what makes a good title (something short and easy to understand that reflects the main idea of the text).

Point out that the order in which events appear in a text does not always correspond to the order in which they actually happened.

Ask pupils to think of words in their first language that have multiple meanings. Discuss and practice looking up words with multiple meanings in a learner's dictionary or textbook glossary. Explore methods for determining which of the meanings makes sense in the text.

Note: It is very important to teach pupils how to use a checklist before they are given this performance task.

Which Is Which



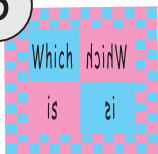
Suggested time allotment:

One lesson

Prerequisites:

- ◆ Ability to read and understand a text
- ◆ Knowledge of alphabetical order
- ◆ Familiarity with the use of a glossary
- ◆ Ability to choose the correct meaning of a word with multiple meanings on the basis of usage and context

6



Which Is Which

| Points | Part One Alphabetizing | Part Two Use of Glossary | Part Three Reading Comprehension |
|--------|--|--|---|
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All alphabetizing was correct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Found and recorded the meanings of three words in the glossary ◆ Chose the meaning used in the text for all three words | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Answered all questions correctly |
| 4 | | | |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Some alphabetizing was correct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Found and recorded the meanings of two words in the glossary ◆ Chose the meaning used in the text for two words | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Answered some questions correctly |
| 2 | | | |
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Alphabetizing was mostly incorrect | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Found and recorded the meanings of one word in the glossary ◆ Chose the meaning used in the text for one word | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Answered few questions correctly |