

Word magic

This activity is a brilliant way to introduce new words into a child's vocabulary.

Setting up

Choose the word you are going to focus on. You could use a real object (a lightbulb or pineapple, for example) or a photograph (like a river or boat).

Use the headings on the *Word Magic* template to encourage the children to talk about the object from various angles. Let's work through an example, using *pineapple* as the chosen word.



Playing the game

Ask the child to describe it.

You might need to use some additional prompts like:

- What colour is it?
- How big is it?
- What does it feel like?

Ask some 'what' questions

- What do we do with it?
- What is it: a fruit or vegetable?
- What kind of plants do they grow on?

Ask some 'where' questions

- Where do we keep pineapples in the house?
- Where can you buy one?
- Where do they grow?

Ask some 'who' questions?

- Who has tasted a pineapple?
- Who has bought one?
- Who likes the taste?



'This game is fun. It helps me learn lots about new words.'

Taking it further

What else do you know about pineapples? What other fruits are grown in hot countries? What other things go well with pineapple? (Ice cream!)

This activity is demonstrated on the DVD.

Variations

- For a whole class, divide them into groups and have each group think about one of the prompts – then get the group to share their ideas.
- If you are working with an individual child, make your templates on A4 paper and help the child to fill them in. Create a vocabulary book by keeping the completed sheets in a file.
- If you are working with a group, make your templates from much larger sheets and display them as wall posters.
- Word Magic is a great everyday way to teach new words or pre-tutor a class in the vocabulary for a new topic – maybe on the interactive white board.