



**LESSON: Found Words**

**Grades:** 1-3

**Subject Areas:** Language Arts

**Estimated Time:** 10 minutes, on-going

**I. Summary:** WordGirl never finishes developing her vocabulary because there are always more words to learn. She knows that building vocabulary is like storing ammunition. Words will help her express herself, solve problems, and create solutions. Invite students to embark on a word quest, and develop a life-long love of language. On a designated bulletin board, create a "Found Words" tree.

**II. Objectives:**

- Students will problem-solve how to find words and meanings
- Students will become familiar with new words and their meanings
- Students will increase their observational and auditory skills
- Students will present their findings to the class
- Students will cooperatively create a word tree

**III. Materials:**

- A bulletin board designated for the word tree
- A large supply of green paper "leaves"
- Tacks to put up the "leaves" on the tree

**IV. Procedure:**

1. Explain to students that they will be expected to find new words to bring in to share with the class. These can be words that they encounter in their lives inside or outside of school, whether overheard in conversations, television shows, movies or songs, or seen in books, magazines, or on the computer. Working with an older sibling or a parent, students will be expected to discover what the word means, and how to use it in a sentence.

2. Students will present their new word to the class in a "show and tell" format. Students will tell where they learned their new word, what the word means, and how they would use the word in a sentence.

3. Students will copy their new words onto the green paper "leaves," including the word's definition on the back. Once this is finished, students may put their word leaf on the class tree.



**V. Assessment:** Students should actively participate in the search for new words, using auditory and observational skills. Students should be able to define and use their new word in front of the class.

**VI. Extensions in Learning:**

- Working in pairs, ask students to choose 5 new words from the word tree and create a dialogue that uses these words.
- Ask students to create a collage of new words. They may find and cut out images from magazines that show the meaning of the words or draw them themselves.
- Using as many new words from the word tree as possible, ask students to write a story about one of the characters from WordGirl.

**Related National Standards (These are established by McREL at URL: [http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/.](http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/))**

- Language Arts
- Working with others