COPY MASTER

Vocabulary Strategy

WORD ORIGINS

Many common words in the English language have interesting histories. For example, the vocabulary word *fossil* comes from the Latin word *fossilis,* which means "dug up." It makes sense, then, that a fossil is something that is uncovered, or dug up, from earth or rock.

   Information about a word's origin can be found in most dictionaries. Understanding the **etymology,** or history, of a word can help you connect the word's meaning to something you already know. An example of an etymology is shown here:

Argue (ar´gyo͞o) *v.* to disagree or quarrel [from Latin argutare, to babble, chatter]

Directions: Look up the etymology of each word in a dictionary. Write the word's origin, and explain how knowing the word's history can help you remember its meaning.

   1. expedition _____

   _____

   2. connoisseur _____

   _____

   3. prowl _____

   _____

   4. kaleidoscope _____

   _____

   5. acute _____

   _____

   6. monster _____

   _____

   7. extinct _____

   _____