



## SEEP Vocabulary Approach

The SEEP (Stem-Example-Explanation-Picture) vocabulary approach allows students to explore connections between related words through roots, suffixes, and prefixes. Students benefit from use of this model to support their ability to identify semantic relationships between words. Through explicit teaching of the meaning of roots, suffixes and prefixes, students may find it easier to learn other related words (e.g., centimetre, century, centenarian).

### Materials

- Paper/whiteboard
- Pencils/whiteboard markers
- SEEP examples/template

### Instructions

1. Identify the root, prefixes, and suffixes of a selected target word (e.g., *ecology*).
2. Write the stem/s (root/prefix/suffix) in the 'Stem' box of the template (e.g., *eco-* and *-ology*).
3. Together with the student, discuss other examples of each stem in words.
  - Discussion with the student should add to their knowledge and refine their understanding of the root/prefix/suffix.
  - Use language and vocabulary that the student already knows to support their understanding of the new terms.
4. Write any discussed examples in the 'Example' box.
5. Next, discuss the meaning of the stem/s in the first box, and write a simple (1-2 word) definition to explain each stem in the 'Explanation' box.
6. Include a picture or visual description in the 'Picture' box.
7. Considerations:
  - Complexity of target words and stems selected should be adjusted according to the student's level of vocabulary development and skill level.
  - The approach can be used as a whole-class activity when introducing new content. Students could create a bank of SEEP templates specific to each curriculum area or a specific topic and refer to/add to these throughout the term.



**SEEP Examples: Early Primary**

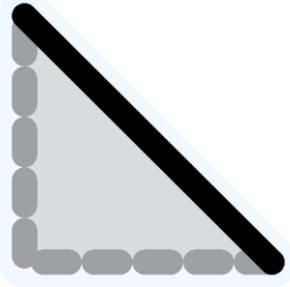
<b>ecology</b>	
<b>Stem</b>	<b>Examples</b>
eco-  -ology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ecosystem</li> <li>• eco-friendly</li>   <li>• meteorology</li> <li>• biology</li> </ul>
<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Picture</b>
eco: environment  ology: the study of...	

<b>amphibious</b>	
<b>Stem</b>	<b>Examples</b>
amphi-  -bios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amphipod</li> <li>• amphitheatre</li>   <li>• biology</li> <li>• biosphere</li> </ul>
<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Picture</b>
amphi: both  bios: life	



**SEEP Examples: Middle/Upper Primary**

Stem	Examples
<p>e- ec- ex-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eclipse</li> <li>• eccentric</li> <li>• ecliptic</li> <li>• exothermic</li> </ul>
Explanation	Picture
<p>e- : ec- : ex- :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">out / without / from</p>	

Stem	Examples
<p>clin-  -clin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• incline</li> <li>• decline</li> <li>• clinometer</li> </ul>
Explanation	Picture
<p>clin- :  -clin:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">slope</p>	



**SEEP Example: Secondary**

Stem	Examples
palaeo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• palaeontology</li><li>• Palaeozoic</li><li>• Palaeolithic</li></ul>
Explanation	Picture
palaeo: ancient	



## SEEP Templates

Stem	Examples
Explanation	Picture

Stem	Examples
Explanation	Picture



<b>Stem</b>	<b>Examples</b>
<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Picture</b>