

Curriculum Topic: CONTEXT CLUES –STANDARD FOUR



Teaching Point:

Context clues are hints found within a sentence, paragraph, or passage that a reader can use to understand the meaning of new or unfamiliar words.

There are several different types of context clues. Let's look at two of them.

Definition/description clue

The new word may be defined, or an explanation may be given within the sentence that can help the reader figure out its meaning. Clues to definition include "that is," commas, dashes, and brackets.

E.g.: The **arbitrator**, the neutral person chosen to settle the dispute, arrived at his decision.

In the example, the reader is given a definition for '**arbitrator**'.

Example clue

Sometimes when a reader finds a new word, an example might be found nearby that helps to explain its meaning. Words like **including**, **such as**, and **for example** highlight example clues.

E.g. **Celestial** bodies, including the sun, moon, and stars, have fascinated man through the years.

In the example, "Celestial" objects are those in the sky or heavens, the sun, moon and stars.

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ACTIVITY

Let's read the sentences and write the meaning of the underlined words in the spaces provided.

Remember to use Context Clues

The meaning is there!

1. At the restaurant we were offered a variety of beverages, like milk and iced- tea.

2. Lee said that Biology, the study of plants and animals, is his favourite subject.

3. Aquatic creatures such as sharks, dolphins and octopi are of interest to sailors.

4. Extinct animals, such as dinosaurs, are interesting to see at the movies.

5. Keisha's home was palatial, so it felt like a palace.

6. The doctor's writing was utterly illegible; no one could read those scribbles.

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ANSWER KEY

1. drinks; something to drink
2. the study of plants and animals
3. relating to water; live in water
4. no longer exists/alive
5. like a palace; spacious; luxurious
6. difficult to read