



Wordsmyth
The Premier Educational Dictionary-Thesaurus

W Wordsmyth
I Illustrated
L Learner's
D Dictionary

WILD user's guide

Teacher/parent edition



<http://kids.wordsmyth.net/wild/>

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I. WILD Introduction

WordsmythKids is an interactive multimedia environment for learning about words and the world. We've combined a content-rich beginner dictionary with a navigable visual world, complete with stories, games, and activities, creating an immersive learning environment that can be a constant companion to a child's elementary education. Wordsmyth Illustrated Learner's Dictionary (WILD) is aimed at grades kindergarten through second grade. The activities found in WILD are aligned to the English Language Arts Common Core Standards.

There are three distinctive yet interrelated modes for exploring WILD, the words it contains, and the information about the world that is connected to these words. A child can explore WILD *visually* in the component called "World," *topically* and *thematically* in the component called "Collections," and *textually* in the component called "Book."



1. World: Visual Exploration

The World is built upon the concept of a picture dictionary, but unlike picture dictionaries found in print, it functions as an interactive world as opposed to a series of static images. When you first arrive in the World, you can choose between entering the City, which includes locations commonly associated with population centers such as home, school, grocery store, library, and bank; or entering Nature, which includes a variety of natural and rural settings such as forest, seashore, and desert.

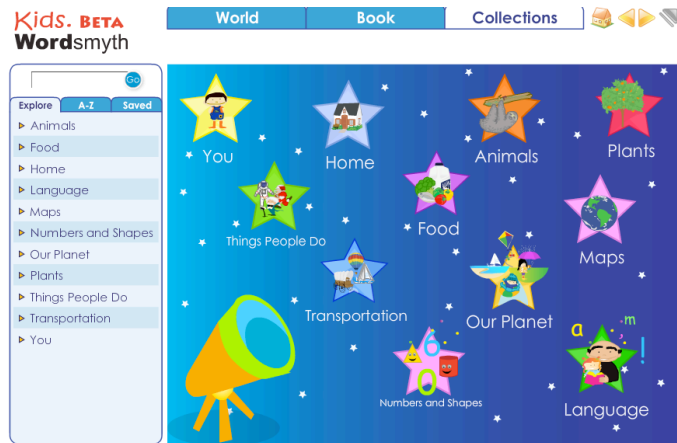


For example, if you click on City, you are taken to a whimsical overview map of this imaginary city, and you can choose which component of the city to explore. In every setting, many objects act as portals into sub-settings containing greater detail, and when you mouse over one of these objects, you have the option to enter the setting it contains; for example, when you are looking here at this city scene, if you mouse over the grocery store, the airplane icon tells you that you can go "inside" the grocery store.

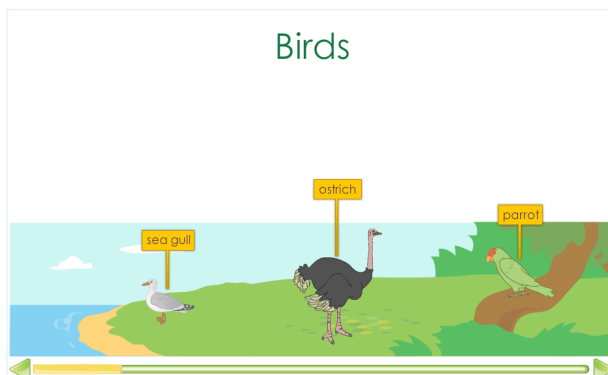
Here you also see the object's label, and you will have the option to click a link to hear the word pronounced or to go to the word's dictionary entry.

2. Collections: *Topical Exploration*

Collections provide a means of exploring the dictionary through clusters of related words. Here you can find clusters of words that are thematically related, such as those relating to “birds” or “the body,” as well as clusters of words sharing some linguistic or grammatical features, such as “prepositions of motion” or “prepositions of location.” An intuitive visual table of contents makes it fun and easy to browse through the collections and discover the world of knowledge contained within it.



For example, the illustration below shows a sample of the “Birds” collection, a scrollable grouping of all the birds in the dictionary with close-up images of each bird and links to their individual dictionary entries.

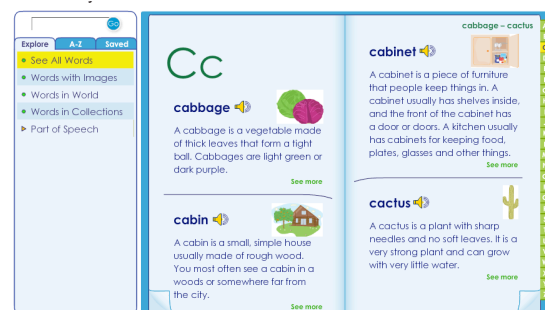


In addition, clicking on the “Album” link shows an alternate view of the collection, with thumbnails of all the items within it

Collections also include other kinds of thematically grouped words and knowledge, such as the names of all the countries in the world laid out in an interactive world map, collections of food and plants.

3. Book: *Textual Exploration*

The Dictionary Book component of WILD allows you to access and explore dictionary entries in an interactive e-book format. Concise versions of dictionary entries are displayed as if on pages of a print dictionary, and clicking on any word will open up a word’s full-expanded entry, complete with audio, images, example sentences, and multiple definitions where relevant.



Unlike standard online dictionaries which present each entry in isolation, this format allows you to browse entries alphabetically before and after the word you have looked up, and to treat the dictionary as a reading experience. Features such as the alphabetical thumb index and guidewords at the top of the page can help introduce conventional dictionary skills that can be applied to print dictionaries that a child may use in the classroom or at home.

Individual Dictionary Entries



If you want to read more about any word you have seen on the pages of the WILD Dictionary Book, the full dictionary entries are just a click away.

Every definition in WILD is written in a functional, full-sentence style. Unlike the abstract definitions found in many other dictionaries, these entries are written with a

strictly controlled vocabulary of child-friendly language and aim to define a word in terms a child can understand. Every entry has entertaining example sentences that relate to the experiences of a child as well as text and audio pronunciation of the entry word. In addition, over 1000 entries are accompanied by illustrations, photographs, and even animations to help illuminate the word's meaning and use.

Individual Dictionary Entries as Hubs Connecting Components

It is these expanded, readable dictionary entries that provide the seamless connections among the three components of WILD. From all three components, the entries are just a click away, and the entries themselves act as hubs connecting the three components. If a child clicks on a word in the Dictionary Book, the pop-up dictionary entry will allow them to go see this word where it appears in the Collections, and in the settings of the World. It's as simple as clicking the links in the upper right-hand corner of the entry.

In the entry for rabbit, you can click "Places with this word" and a selection of the places the word rabbit can be found. If you click "forest" you are taken directly into the forest setting of the world.



Or, if you came to the full dictionary entry from exploration in the forest, you can click “Go To Page” to see where in the alphabetical dictionary this word is found and to see other words around it. You are never “only in the alphabetical dictionary” or “only in the World”--- rather, WILD helps a child revel in the endless connections between word learning and learning about the World.

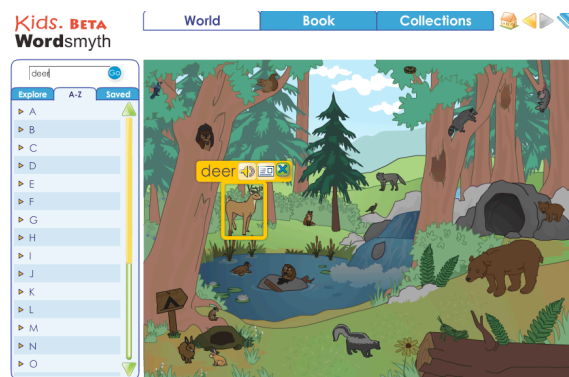


II. Navigation Overview

WILD has been designed both to enable free and unstructured exploration and to allow for structured and purposeful searching and navigation. As explained in the components above, the three tabs under the Dictionary provide three distinct starting points for you to choose among. Within all three components, there are multiple ways of getting around.

1. Search Box

The simplest and most direct route to a word is the search box. If you know what word you are looking for, you can simply type it in the search box, which is always found in the upper left corner of the page. If the word is found in the particular component of the site you are currently exploring, you will be taken to its appearance in that particular component.



For example, if you type “deer” into the search box while you are exploring in the World, you will be taken directly to the Forest setting, and “deer” will be highlighted in a frame. If you are exploring the World or Collections and you type a word that is only found in the Dictionary Book, which includes the largest set of words, you will be taken over to the Dictionary Book.

Let’s say you are exploring in the World and you type the word “rainy,” you will be taken over to the entry in the Dictionary Book because “rainy” is not a word that is currently shown in the World. In addition, parents and teachers have the option to allow a child to access words from our higher level dictionaries so that if a child types a word that is not in the limited WILD wordlist, he or she may view its entry as extracted from one of our more advanced dictionaries.

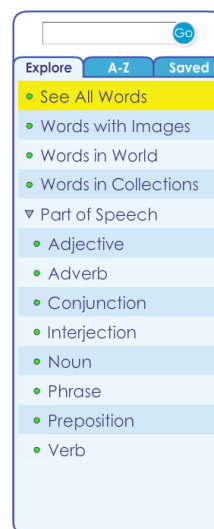
2. Textual Browsing

Below the search box, the left hand bar in each component allows for more structured textual browsing.



The tab marked “A-Z” includes an alphabetical list of all the words that can be found in a particular location.

The tab, “Explore” is like a categorical table of contents for the component. In the World, it shows a menu of all the places you can go. In Collections, it shows an organized menu of the collections. And in the Dictionary Book, it shows a menu of features by which you can filter the dictionary list, so that you can see a list of only those entries containing features.

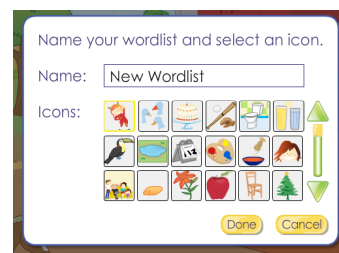


3. Making Glossary

The saved tab on the sidebar is where you can create your own word lists, edit the lists, review them, and play games with the words on your lists.



First, click on the plus sign icon to create a new word list. You can then name your word list. For younger users who can’t type yet, an image can be chosen to represent their list.



Next, you can start to collect words for your word list. Wherever you see a treasure chest icon in the World, in the Book, or in the Collection, you can click to save the word in your word list. All the words you save will appear in the sidebar under the name of the word list.

If you save a word by mistake, simply click the treasure chest icon again. The chest will open once more and release the word. Another way is to go to the sidebar, select the unwanted word, and click the minus sign icon to delete it. If you select a word list, clicking the minus sign icon will delete the whole word list.

Now that you created your own word list, you can play a game with it by clicking the kite icon on the bottom of the Saved tab. If you have collected words from the Book, some of them may not have images. When you play games, these words will automatically be omitted.

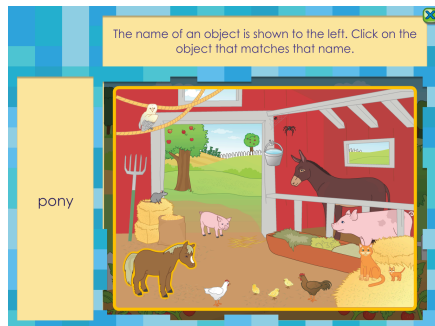
III. Activities



Activities can be activated by selecting the kite icon at the bottom of the screen. Wherever the user is in WILD when the activity is launched is where the activity will be played. If you want to play any of the activities using your own word lists, go to the saved tab on the left hand bar, select the word list and then click the kite icon there.

What Is It?

When the activity, “What is it?” is launched it shows an arrow pointing to an object. The user must click on the correct label on the left side of the screen. The word options are located on the left side of the screen. This activity helps users to build their word knowledge by relating a word to a picture.

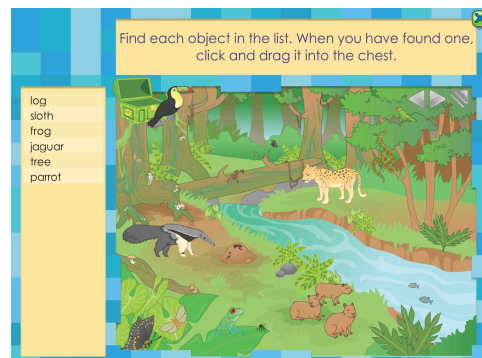


Where Is It?

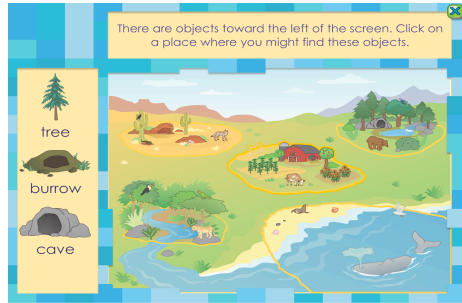
In this activity a word appears in a box to the left. The user must then find and select the object that represents word. This activity helps users to build their word knowledge by relating a word to a picture.

Scavenger Hunt

In Scavenger Hunt, users are given a list of words located on the left side of the screen. The goal is to find the items in the world and drag them into the treasure box. The user may find the items in any order. This activity helps to promote users’ word knowledge by requiring them to associate a word with a picture. It also helps users to gain a basic understanding of the meaning of the word through recognizing how it fits under the concept of the topic he/she is searching for and by finding where the word is located in the world.



Where Can You Find These?



In this activity users are given three pictures with corresponding words, the users must select one of the locations in the setting to categorize where the object belongs. This activity helps users to categorize words and builds their understanding of word meaning.

Activities and The Common Core Standards

Our activities help to meet some of the ELA Common Core Learning Standards. Take a look below to see what learning standards students are working on while play our activities.

Kindergarten:

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.K.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on kindergarten reading and content.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.K.4a Identify new meanings for familiar words and apply them accurately (e.g., knowing *duck* is a bird and learning the verb to *duck*).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.K.5 With guidance and support from adults, explore word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.K.5a Sort common objects into categories (e.g., shapes, foods) to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.K.5c Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., note places at school that are colorful).

First Grade:

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.1.5 With guidance and support from adults, demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.1.5a Sort words into categories (e.g., colors, clothing) to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.1.5b Define words by category and by one or more key attributes (e.g., a *duck* is a bird that swims; a *tiger* is a large cat with stripes).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.1.5c Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., note places at home that are *cozy*).

Second Grade:

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 2 reading and content, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.4e Use glossaries and beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.5 Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.5a Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., *describe foods that are spicy or juicy*).

IV. Buttons and additional features



Home: Click to go to the WILD homepage.



Backward and Forward Arrows: These arrows work like the arrows in your web browser. Click the back arrow to go to the page you were on before this one. After you click the back arrow, you can click the forward arrow to move forward through your history.



Blue Arrow: Click to close the window you are looking at and go up one level.



English: Click the "E" for "English" to see words labeled in English only.



Spanish: Click the "S" for "Spanish" to see words labeled in Spanish only.



English and Spanish: Click to see words labeled in both English and Spanish.



Labels: The words that tell you the names of the objects in the pictures are called "labels." If you want to see all the labels for a picture at the same time, click here to show all the labels. Click again to hide the labels.



Picture Album: Click this button to see all the words and pictures from this page organized like a picture album. Click the button again to turn Album View off.



Activity: Click to play an activity



Create word list: by clicking the plus sign, you can create a word list and start collecting your own words. Then you can play an activity using the words you saved.



Delete: If you highlight a word in one of your saved word lists, then click the minus sign; you will delete the selected word from the word list. If a word list is selected, you can remove the whole word list.



Speaker: Hear this word.



Full dictionary entry: Click to see the full dictionary entry for the word.



Airplane: If there is an airplane button, it means you can go inside this item by clicking on the airplane or by clicking on the picture.



Close: Click the blue "X" to close the window.



Audio: Click to turn the help audio on or off.



Full Screen View: Click to turn Full Screen on or off. When Full Screen is on, the main picture will take up the whole screen.



Help: Click this question mark to turn Help on or off. When Help is on, you will see question marks near all the buttons and features on the page. Click a question mark to see and hear an explanation of a feature.



Options: Click here to control how the dictionary entries look. You can choose to show or hide certain entry fields to help your student concentrate on what they are learning.