

Vocabulary Games

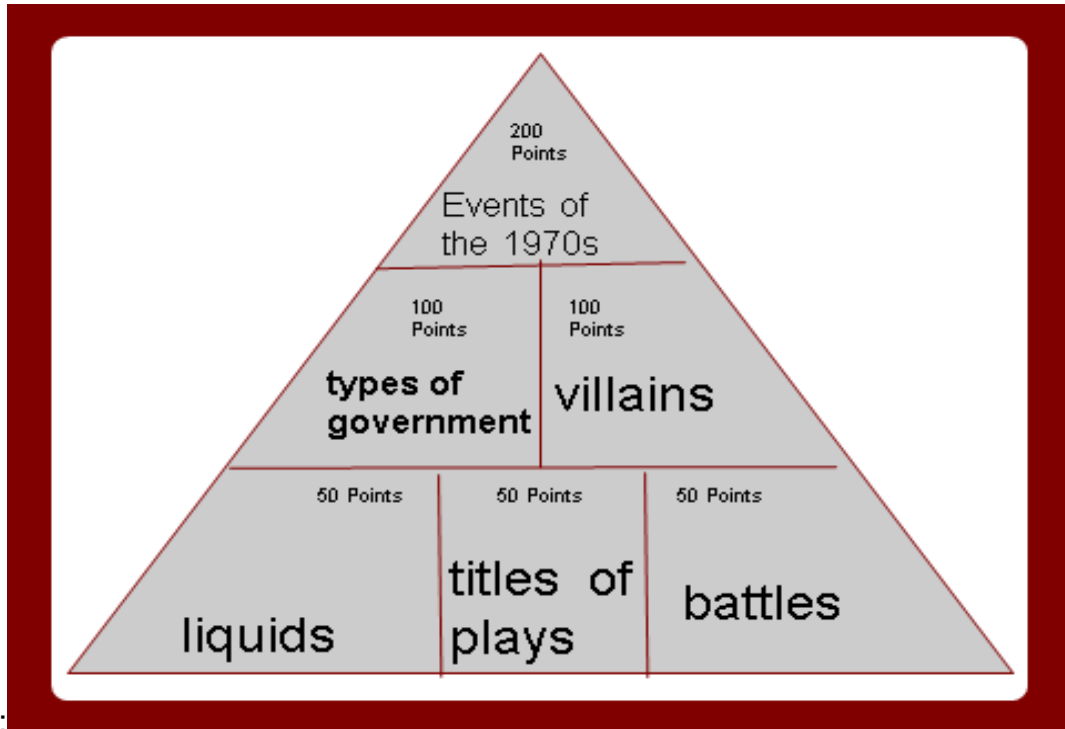
Create a Category

- Focus:** Categorization
- Object:** Create as many different categories as possible based on a list of terms and phrases
- Audience:** For upper elementary through high school, all content areas
- Preparation:** Create 4-8 lists of 15-20 words
- Play:** Teams or individually
- Task:** Teacher shows the word list, and students categorize 3+ terms in as many ways as possible.
- *Points may be given based on the number of categories generated.
- Tip:** Nouns generally work best, but you can make lists with just verbs or adjectives.

Name It!

- Focus:** Vocabulary & Content Terms
- Object:** Write the academic vocabulary word that corresponds with a photo or illustration.
- Preparation:** Gather images that represent terms & 2 whiteboards
- Play:** Place the images face down in a container. Divide class into 2 teams. One person from each team comes up, takes a picture, looks at it, and hands it to the teacher. He then writes the word or phrase on the board. If it's correct, the teacher gives the OK sign and gives the team a point. Player 1 rushes back to tag the next teammate, etc. Team with most points wins.

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EXAMPLE:

Name That Category

Focus: Categorization

Object: Modeled after "\$100,000 Pyramid" TV show

Helps students focus on attributes of concepts by looking for commonalities.

Preparation: Game board with identified categories of increasing difficulty in each cell. Hide the category names.

Play: Students work in pairs or small groups. Only one "clue giver" from each team can see the game board. Uncover the first cell and clue giver lists words that fit that category. When the teams correctly identify the category name, move on to the next category until one team guesses all of them. The first team done is the winner. Teams receive the points they earned up to that time.