



Vocabulary Anchor

Vocabulary is the knowledge of words and word meanings. Print vocabulary is the set of words of which students know the meaning when they read or write them.

Materials:

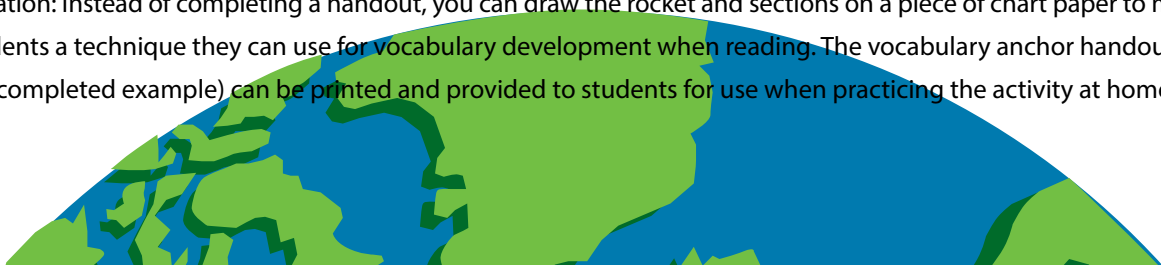
- Vocabulary Anchor handout (blank, provided)
- Pencils or crayons
- Dictionary
- Vocabulary Anchor sample (provided)
- Chart paper (if variation is selected)

Preparation:

- Print vocabulary anchor handout (enough copies for each family to have one) and sample (one copy, for facilitator to show to families)
- Write a theme-related vocabulary word on each boat for participants

Activity Instructions:

1. Begin by modeling for participants how we come to understand something new by “anchoring” it to something we already know (see the example for an illustration of this process):
 - a. Select a word and write it next to the rocket (e.g., “mountain”).
 - b. Choose a related word and write it inside the anchor attached to the rocket (e.g., “hill”).
 - c. Show the participants how the familiar word is the anchor of the new word, and the two are connected by the rope.
 - d. Talk about similarities between the two words. Write these on the left side of the rocket and to the left of the anchor, on the plus (+) side (e.g., “landforms, raised elevation, not flat”).
 - e. Talk about characteristics that set the two words apart. List these to the right of the rope, and key them with a tilde sign (~) (e.g., “taller, steeper, bigger”).
 - f. Discuss a personal experience that you associate with the new word. On the top of the rocket, write a few key words from your experience or draw a picture to represent your memory (e.g., “climbed Mt. Marcy,” “sore foot,” or draw a picture of a swollen foot because of the climb).
 - g. Summarize by reviewing the drawing and talking about what the two vocabulary words mean.
2. After modeling, ask families to complete their own vocabulary anchor sheet as a team. Hand out worksheets for them to use.
3. Circulate to help any families that seem confused or “stuck.”
4. Variation: Instead of completing a handout, you can draw the rocket and sections on a piece of chart paper to model for students a technique they can use for vocabulary development when reading. The vocabulary anchor handout (and/or the completed example) can be printed and provided to students for use when practicing the activity at home.



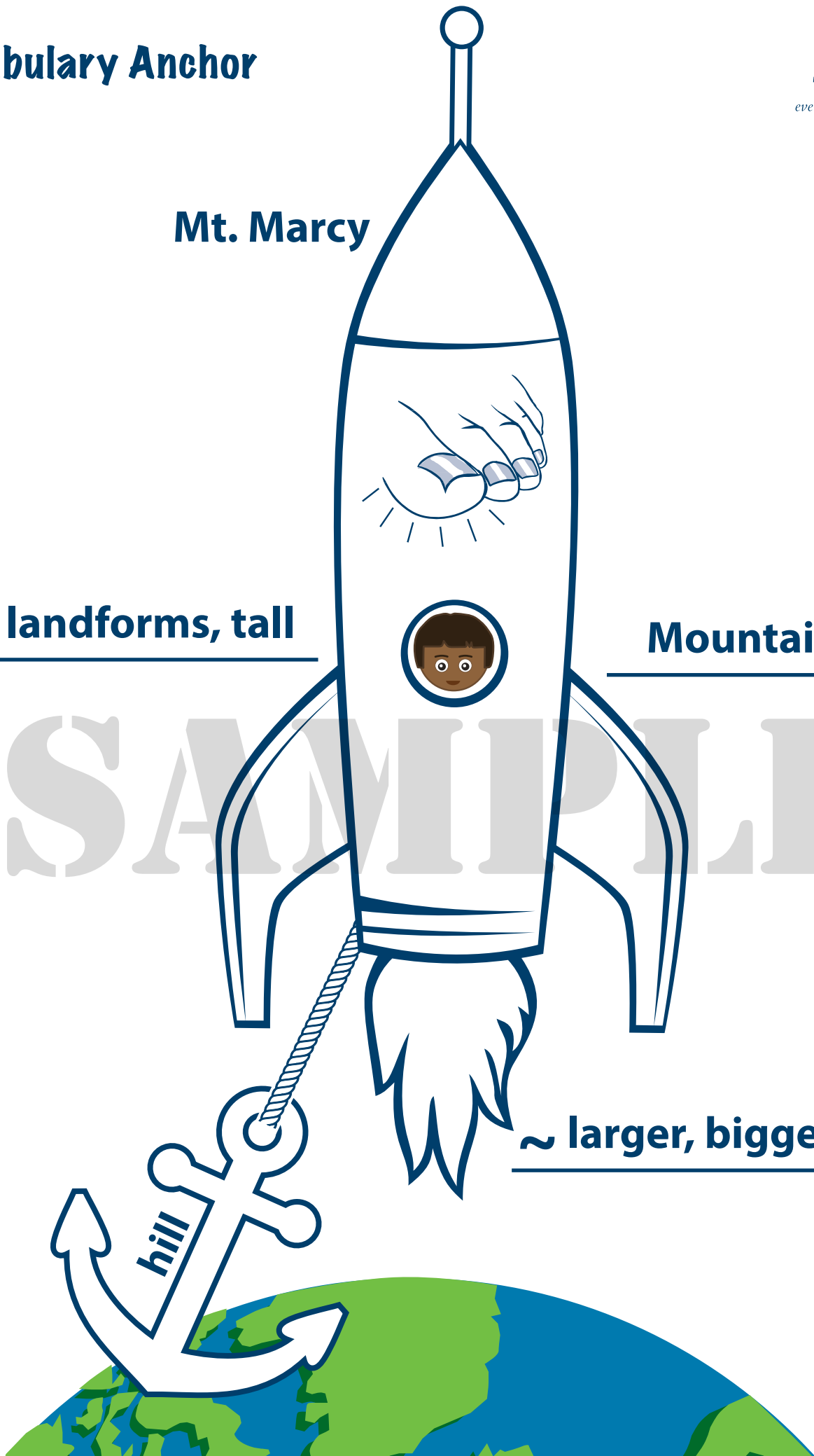
Mt. Marcy

+ landforms, tall

Mountain

SAMPLE

~ larger, bigger



Vocabulary Anchor

+

