Vocabulary Strategy

WORD ORIGINS
Many common words in the English language have interesting histories. For example, the vocabulary word fossil comes from the Latin word fossilis, which means “dug up.” It makes sense, then, that a fossil is something that is uncovered, or dug up, from earth or rock.

Information about a word’s origin can be found in most dictionaries. Understanding the etymology, or history, of a word can help you connect the word’s meaning to something you already know. An example of an etymology is shown here:

Argue (ar´gyōo) v. to disagree or quarrel [from Latin argutare, to babble, chatter]

Directions: Look up the etymology of each word in a dictionary. Write the word’s origin, and explain how knowing the word’s history can help you remember its meaning.

1. expedition _____________________________________________________________

2. connoisseur ___________________________________________________________

3. prowl _________________________________________________________________

4. kaleidoscope ___________________________________________________________

5. acute _________________________________________________________________

6. monster ______________________________________________________________

7. extinct _______________________________________________________________