

# arbor arboris

## [AHR boar, ahr BOH ris] tree

**arboretum** - public garden where trees are cultivated and exhibited

**Arbor Day** - day designated for planting trees - usually in March, April or May

**grape arbor** - grape vines trained to climb on a trellis or open-roof framework

**arboraceous** - full of trees, wooded

**arboriculture** - (cultura - tending) - cultivation of trees and shrubs

**arborvitae** - (vita - life) - "tree of life"; an evergreen tree of the cypress family bearing cones (conifer)

### Teaching Notes:

Most cities have a public garden called an arboretum where trees are cultivated for enjoyment and study. Most states observe Arbor Day but not all on the same day. The first Arbor Day was April 10, 1872, in the state of Nebraska. On that day, Nebraskans planted over one million trees! Tree planting is a fine class project. Timber companies often make seedlings available for children to plant. Trees clean the air of carbon dioxide and give back oxygen. They help to counteract the air pollution caused by millions of gasoline-burning vehicles all over the world. We need a worldwide Arbor Day! The story of Johnny Appleseed used to be a favorite in elementary schools. Your school or public library very likely can find a copy for you and your children to read. Johnny never ate an apple without planting the seeds in the core by the roadside so that coming generations would have shade and good apples to eat.

Grape arbors are common in sunny parts of the world where the climate is good for grapes. The vines, which are trained to climb up over an open-roof framework, grow very thick, almost like tree trunks. The clusters of grapes then hang down through the roof and are easily picked. While the vines are in leaf, a grape arbor makes a shady and fragrant place to sit and enjoy a pleasant hour of reading or sharing refreshments. Could your class make a project of building a small grape arbor and of planting apple trees around the school?

# chronos

## [KROH noss] time

synchronize - (syn - together, same) - do at same time

chronometer - (metron - measure) - device to measure time

chronology - (logos - word, study) - relate events in time sequence

chronic - over a period of time; "from time to time"

chronograph - (graph - write, draw) - device to measure and record time

### Teaching Notes:

Synchronize - We usually use this word to mean setting our watches to the same time so that we can meet later, or do separate tasks at the exact same moment. Chronology - The children can write chronologies of one of their days, from the time they get up to the time they go to bed. (It's always an instructive eye-opener to how time is spent!) Chronic - This seems to have more of a negative meaning. We speak of "chronic illness" or "chronic tardiness" when it happens frequently, or all the time.

### Extra Words:

A chronologist (logos - word or study) is a person skilled in putting time or dates in sequence. A chronicle is a record of events in order of time. Newspapers often adopt "chronicle" as part of their names. *The San Francisco Chronicle* gives you daily news of events as they happen.

# tempus temporis

## [TEM poos, tem POH ris] time

temporal - pertaining to time

temporary - for a limited time

temporize - play for time; stall

extemporaneous - (ex - out) - speak or act at (or out of) the time without preparation

contemporary - (cum - together, with) - with the time

contemporaries - people who are alive at the same time

tempo - (Italian from Latin) - time in music; rate of speed at which a piece of music moves

tense - (French: temps) - verb forms which indicate past, present or future time

### Teaching Notes:

This Latin word, tempus, temporis is descended from an old Indo-European root word, temp, which meant “stretch or extend”. Ancient people set aside a “stretch of land” for observing the stars which were objects of religious contemplation. The Romans called a place dedicated to religious observances a templum (a temple, to us). The places on the human body where the skin is stretched thinnest are the temples on the head. If one’s will power is stretched, one is tempted. To stretch toward an object or goal is to attempt it. Tempus, temporis, meant a span, stretch, or extent of time – between “then and now”; between “now and later”; between “before and after”.

Children will enjoy exploring how the ancient people gradually gained a sense of time by observing events which were repeated regularly (such as ocean waves, tides, sunrise and sunset, moon phases, growing seasons, etc.). Finding out how the ancients kept track of time is a wonderful project for a class. If we had no clocks or calendars, how would we organize our days and our work? How would we make arrangements to meet each other? Would life move faster or more slowly? Why?

When you stretch your imagination, you can see how the old Indo-European idea temp (stretch) was used metaphorically in various situations over more than 4,000 years. TEMPUS FUGIT! (Time flies!)

# para

## [pah RAH] beside, along with

parable - (ballein - to throw) - to throw a story in for comparison while teaching a lesson or moral

parachute - (L. cadere - to fall) - goes along with you as you fall and slows you down

parenthesis - (thesis - place) - a statement placed beside (or within) the main sentence

paragraph - (graph - write) - ¶ - an editing mark beside a page of print to show needed indentation

parallel - (allos - other) - lying along side of another line but not touching

### Teaching Notes:

Para - There are a great many English derivatives which use this hardworking Greek prefix. Knowing the root and knowing how it is used in the words above makes many words accessible to children which they otherwise might not understand. Parable - It would be useful to read a parable from the Bible or from Aesop or La Fontaine to the children so they understand how this kind of literature works.

### Extra Words:

There is a French word, para, from the Italian parare which means "to protect or defend" - which undoubtedly can be traced back to the Greek meaning of "beside". It is used in the "defending" sense in parachute since the silk umbrella protects you from falling too fast; a parasol protects you from the sun. Words like paratroops come from the meaning of parachute and mean soldiers who parachute down from the sky. Paramedic - works beside a doctor as an aide. Paralegal - works beside a lawyer as an aide.

# inter

**[IN tair] between, among, amid**  
 international - (natio - nation, race, kindred) - between or among nations  
 interject - (jacio, jactum - throw) - throw between  
 interaction - (ago, actum - act, perform) - discussion or action between or among people  
 intervene - (venio, ventum - come) - come between  
 intergalactic - (galactos [Gr] - milk) - between stars in the Milky Way  
 interlude - (ludus - play) - light entertainment in the midst of serious activities; a “break”

### Teaching Notes:

*Webster's International Dictionary*, Second Edition, devotes 27 columns to words beginning with INTER. It is so well integrated with the English language that we may forget that it was a separate Latin word long ago. The Romans used it both as a preposition and as a prefix but we use it only as a prefix.

The related words, INTRA, which means “within” or “inside”, and INTRO, meaning “go into” or “enter”, were also separate words in Latin. The differences in meaning may seem like small distinctions, but pointing out such distinctions to children helps them become more precise in their use of language and therefore much more confident in their ability to express themselves. You may want to make separate root cards for each one of these words in order to give the differences in meaning the attention they deserve.

### Extra Words:

Students will want to know the difference between INTERscholastic athletic competitions, meaning games between schools, and INTRAMural (MURUS - wall) sports, meaning “within or inside the walls” of one school (perhaps games between classes or clubs). INTROduce (DUCO - lead) means “to lead into” which happens when you lead or bring a new person into a discussion. INTROspection means looking into or entering one’s own thoughts and feelings for the purpose of self-evaluation. Three good root words to know!