

Teaching notes

Taboo is a word guessing game. The objective is to have your team guess the keyword on top of a card. This must be accomplished without using the word itself or any of the additional 'taboo' (forbidden) words listed on the card.

1. Students work in teams (an even number with at least two people in each team).
2. Each team needs a set of cards. It is worth copying each set onto different coloured paper and/or laminating them to ensure that you have all the cards back at the end of the activity in order to reuse them.
3. The cards need to be cut out, and then shuffled and placed face down.
4. An individual from the first team takes the card from the top of the pile, and then describes the word at the top of the card without using the words below. The rest of their team must guess which word is described. Participants are not allowed to say 'sounds like' or 'rhymes with' and no gestures, sounds or drawings are permitted.
5. Should the individual use one of the taboo words, a member of the opposing team may challenge and the individual must move on to the next word.
6. Each individual is allowed two minutes to describe as many words as possible to the players in their team (a longer time may be required to allow more descriptions to take place) before play passes to the next team. There are no penalties for wrong guesses.
7. For each word which is correctly guessed, the playing team receives one point. Prizes/merits could be handed out to the winning team in each group.

This activity is designed to extend the students' vocabulary range by finding other ways to describe the keyword. It allows a review of scientific vocabulary in addition to reinforcing the students' memory of each scientific term.

In the lesson or homework prior to playing this game, the students could research meanings of new terms.

Extension activity

1. Each student puts a new vocabulary word at the top of a blank card.

Each student then has to write a further five words which are associated with the keyword they have written at the top of the card.

solid

steel
plastic
wood
particles
vibrating
touching
packed
hard
shape

liquid

particles
water
mercury
shape
container
moving
drink
energy

gas

air
particles
fast
moving
balloon
pressure
hydrogen
carbon dioxide
oxygen

particles

solid
liquid
gas
vibrate
move
atoms
molecules

bonds

force
weak
strong
intermolecular
atoms
molecules

flow

liquid
gas
solid
particles
energy
movement

expansion

properties
heat
energy
vibrate
particles
density
conduction
bigger

contraction

property
heat
energy
smaller
cooler
temperature
size
particles

pressure

gas
heat
high
low
expand
contract
balloon
area
force

diffusion

liquid
solid
gas
movement
concentration
high
low
particles

particle

theory
movement
solids
liquids
gases
energy
vibration

state

solid
liquid
gas
change
evaporation
condensing
freezing
subliming
water
ice

property

density
sonorous
malleable
physical
chemical

dissolving

stir
heat
water
soluble
salt
sugar
insoluble

heat

energy
temperature
rate
reaction
particles
faster

sublimation

change
state
iodine
solid
gas
liquid
heat
temperature

evaporating

liquid
gas
particles
energy
faster
escape
kinetic
heat

freezing

solid
liquid
cold
temperature
ice
water
decrease
energy