

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Vocabulary:

"How This Inspired That"

1. catapult (KAT-uh-puhlt) *noun or verb*; A catapult is a machine for flinging something into the air. Long ago, soldiers used catapults to launch rocks at enemies.

As a verb, *catapult* means "to launch something into the air, as if by catapult." *Catapult* can also be used more figuratively to describe something shooting forward, as in "The hit song catapulted the singer to stardom."

2. concoct (kon-KOKT) *verb*; To concoct is to make something—such as food or drinks—by mixing different things together. You might concoct a smoothie out of various fruits and vegetables. Concoct can also mean "invent or make up," as in "Brian concocted some excuse for missing my party, but I know he just forgot."

3. horde (hohrd) *noun*; A horde is a big, unorganized crowd of people.

4. luxury (LUHK-shuh-ree) *noun or adjective*; A luxury is something that is nice to have or experience but is not necessary. Sleeping in on the weekend is a luxury. Often, *luxury* is used to describe something expensive. Diamond jewelry is a luxury.

Luxury can also be used as an adjective to show that something has the qualities of a luxury. A luxury hotel, for example, is a fancy, expensive hotel.

5. traction (TRAK-shuhn) *noun*; Traction is the force that causes a moving thing to slow down or stick against the surface it is moving against. It's important to wear shoes with good traction when you go hiking so that you don't slip.

Traction can also mean "sticking power" as in being popular or accepted. An idea that is gaining traction is one that's becoming popular.

Directions: On the back of this page, list any other words from the article whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the primary meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.