

## General Memory Tricks

Here are some basic techniques for aiding students with memorization and understanding.

### Acrostics

King Philip called out for George Smith (kingdom, phylum, class order, family, genus, species)

### Grouped lists

“All of these species were first found by the Leakeys.”

### Music

Set information to a tune (like the alphabet is sung to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”) or play and explain relevant music (for a time period, for a type of worldview).

### Analogies

Make the unfamiliar more familiar; “This is to That as This Other is to That Other.” Use analogies that have to do with simple and recognizable concepts such as cooking, weather, celebrities, and animals. (*Achilles’ withdrawal to his tent is like a heavy-weight champion who won’t leave the balcony*).

### Associations

Ask students what new information is “next to” in their minds; establish triggers, e.g., if a concept reminds a student of a quote from a movie, the student can recall the concept by thinking of the movie.

### Visualizations

Have students come up with visual stand-ins for concepts: “I remember that longitudinal lines are vertical on the globe by thinking of my fifth grade teacher, Mr. Alongi, who was tall and thin.”