Collective nouns

A collective noun refers to many individuals taken as a unit but is singular in form, e.g. army (soldiers), government (politicians), herd (cows).

**GETTING STARTED**

Match the groups and their collective nouns. Look at the word on the left (e.g. *insects*) and find the collective noun on the right to describe a group of them (*a swarm of insects*). Write the number of the word (1) in the box next to the collective noun.

1. insects crowd
2. flowers staff
3. warships pack
4. fish pride
5. poems herd
6. books troupe
7. ships flock
8. islands gaggle
9. stars congregation
10. pupils choir
11. acrobats bouquet
12. worshippers shoal
13. people convoy
14. teachers anthology
15. cattle armada
16. lions archipelago
17. singers constellation
18. geese swarm
19. wolves class
20. birds library

**MOVING ON**

**WORD DOMINOES**

- Cut up the boxes so you have separate dominoes like these.

- Place the cards face down and jumble them up.
- Take five cards each.
- Turn over one card, in the centre, as the start card.
- Choose who goes first.
- If they have a matching card for either end of the start card, place it at the correct end of the centre domino. If not, pick up another card.
- Take turns to match either end of the dominoes.
- The first player to place all their dominoes is the winner.

How many did you get right? 5 = novice 10 = expert 15 = maestro

You can use your Oxford English Dictionary for Schools and your Oxford Student’s Dictionary for these activities.