

**Language Arts: Beginning
Sounds/Letter Recognition
And Fluency**

Prediction

Making Words

Story Telling

**Short Vowel Sounds/Word
Groups**

Click on a tab.

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Station rotation: Groups of students could do this activity as a station while other groups are doing other similar activities if you only have a limited amount of devices in your room. If the lab is available, students could do this activity in the lab.

Idea: Pass out the copies of [My ABC Book](#) to students.

Tell them that they are going to be visiting an alphabet site.

(<http://www.starfall.com/n/level-k/index/load.htm?f>) Their job is to go on a letter hunt and find different words that begin with each letter. Student can draw the pictures they see or write the words if they can. Challenge the students to come up with different words that are not on the site.

Students will then share their completed books with the class.** The ABC book would probably not be completed in one session. In fact, students could do this as a year long activity and fill out the letter box as they learn the specific letter/sound. You could also assign certain letters to students and they would be responsible for filling in those boxes in their books. Then collect all the student responses and make a class abc book.

You could also have students click on the letter to see the different images. Have students say the words aloud as they hear them:

<http://www.starfall.com/n/level-k/index/load.htm?f>

Challenge students to use the new words in a sentence.

****Another variation: You could also have students use this online tool/website to fill out their alphabet books: <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/picturematch/>

With this tool, have students click on beginning sounds. Then have students type the letters you want them to review.(So this assures that students are only doing letters they have learned) Students then match up the picture with the beginning letter sound. When they are complete they can print out matches they made. They can use the printed out cards in their abc books by gluing and pasting them into their books.

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Tell the students that they will be making predictions today about a story. Tell them they will be reading a story called The Gingerbread Boy. Ask the students what they think the story will be about.

Have students complete the prediction sheet. (<http://tinyurl.com/oftw9fe>) (students draw a picture of what they think the story will be about. Then students write one simple sentence about what they think will happen.)

Then show the story of the gingerbread boy:

<http://more2.starfall.com/m/talking-library/gingerbread-boy/load.htm?f&d=demo> (story is read aloud and you click on green arrow to go through the story) You may pause the story as needed) Could be done on individual laptops, in lab or as a whole class activity.(on projector)

Once the story is over, have students state what happened in the story. Students will then fill out the "what actually happened sheet"(in above url). Students will draw a picture of what happened in the story and write a simple sentence.)

Once done, students can go to individual laptops(or in the lab) and create their own gingerbread man using the online tool: <http://www.starfall.com/n/holiday/gingerbread/load.htm?f&n=main> After students complete the activity you can print out their creation and students can use the print out to create their own book about the gingerbread man. Have students share why they chose to make their gingerbread man look a certain way. They can color their creations after they print them out.

**If you are feeling super creative, use this online tool to let the students come up with their own ending to the story. (or it can be used as a tool to help the students re-tell the story.) Have the students create one scene in the story. (or more if your students are able) Students can print out their creations.

<http://www.iboard.co.uk/iwb/Gingerbread-Man-One-Scene-Focus-146>

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Making words

Making words provides a structured way for students to experiment with words and investigate how the sounds of language are put together (Cunningham, 1994). It is important that students have an opportunity for freedom to choose, explore, make, and play with words.

Making words allows students to manipulate the sounds of language by physically arranging letters to form words and focus on how moving the letters changes the sound and meaning of words. Struggling readers may enjoy the opportunity to play with language in a hands-on format and use their creativity to form new words. Making words may also provide a helpful scaffold for children as they spell words. Instead of having a whole alphabet to choose from, they form words using the handful of letters at their fingertips.

Here are some websites that can be used in the lab, as a whole class activity or on individual laptops(or laptops set up as centers) that can be a creative way to have the students make words. Students should write down the words they create on index cards and practice reading the words they created.

Making words (with all the vowels): <http://teacher.scholastic.com/clifford1/flash/vowels/>
(reads words aloud)

Puzzle me words: pick the vowel sounds. The site reinforces letter sounds by having students combine letters to form words for the pictures they see (e.g., *pig* and *hat*)
<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/puzzlemewords/>

Phonics: Making words: This site uses groups of phonemes. What's great about this site is that a teacher, you can select which letters(phonemes) you want the students to use when they make words. As the students move letters, each sound the phoneme makes is read. If the students make a real word, a picture shows up and the word is read aloud. Students can then print out the words they create. This site can be used throughout the year as students learn more letters and sounds.
<http://www.iboard.co.uk/iwb/Phoneme-Flying-Saucers-216>

Vowel endings: <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/construct/> (does not read words aloud--more advanced better for later in the year)

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Creating stories

This can be a great activity when you are teaching students about elements of a story. With this site, students would create their own scene. Have the students create their own scenes then have the students describe and write what is going on in their story. Examples of what you can do with this site: student can choose a backdrop with the 'paint roller' icon on the left. Choose objects and characters from the box. Look out for the 'all objects button' to widen your story possibilities. Click the 'flip' or resize buttons and then click the object to make the action happen. Change the mood of the scene by changing the light and weather conditions. Have students share their stories during story time or dramatic play. Have students write sentences to go with their stories.

<http://www.iboard.co.uk/activity/Start-with-a-Setting-53>

***Some additional sites that also let students make their own stories:

<http://tinyurl.com/y8mxul2>

http://www.compasslearningodyssey.com/sample_act/reading1_2/story_creator_oceans.swf

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Word groups(rhyming):

Make words with a specific vowel: (reads the words and sounds, you can set the settings. Students drag the letters to the remote control, press the button, site says the word. If it is a real word, a picture shows up.)(More advanced better for letter in the year)

Make words with vowel a: <http://www.iboard.co.uk/iwb/Channel-A-42>

Make words with vowel e: <http://www.iboard.co.uk/iwb/Channel-E-43>

Make words with vowel i: <http://www.iboard.co.uk/iwb/Channel-I-45>

Make words with vowel o: <http://www.iboard.co.uk/iwb/Channel-O-46>

Make words with vowel u: <http://www.iboard.co.uk/iwb/Channel-U-47>

Interactive activity: <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/wordfamily/>

Lesson plan and ideas for use of above interactive activity.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/word-sorts-beginning-struggling-795.html?tab=4#tabs>

Another tool: <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/picturematch/>

Have students click on short vowel sounds. They have to match the picture with the correct vowel sound. You can do all vowels or just select ones. Students then can print out their work. You can have them use these print outs to make sentences with their words or have them come up with.