

PRINT & DIGITAL



SPECIAL ED



These letter of the week units are something I created and started using in my classroom. I had students with significant challenges and most were non-readers. We spent one week per letter.

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This unit has 5 group activities and 5 individual activities. They are in both a print and digital format.

Color version

Letter A

Letter of the Week Unit

By
Christa Joy
Special Needs for Special Kids



In separate files, you will:

- Black and white version of this unit
- 5-day lesson plan
- Directions and links to digital activities

This entire unit comes in 2 separate files. One is completely in color and one is completely in black and white.

Letter of the Week

Lesson Plan

Quick Look

Preparation

- Print out a alphabet board for each student to use throughout unit
 - Laminate or place in page protector
- Books
 - Print out, laminate, and bind
 - There are 2 books: one for the letter of the week and one social story
 - You can also use the link in the digital activities to the movie version can show rather than printing out the book

Teaching Tips

1. **Color Coding:** this is a reinforcement activity. Outline or color the corresponding picture task.
 - a. For more info, read my <https://specialneedsfordifferentiation/>
 - b. I also have a blog post <https://specialneedsfordifferentiation.com/3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
2. **Make your own copies of the letter of the week** yesterday. For that reason
 - a. I often complete the letter of the week that I could use year after year
 - b. My copies were also laminated for more support or as a work sample
3. **Options for Use:** Turn on the video laminating and adding Velcro
 - a. For more info, watch <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Activities-3474240>

Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alphabet song • Book • Class circle map • Individual circle map
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alphabet song • Book • Class scavenger hunt • Individual sorting activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alphabet song • Book

Day 2

Activity	Notes	Materials
Sing alphabet song	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using your favorite alphabet song, sing along using the alphabet board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Students should point to each letter as they sing • Special attention is paid to finding the letter of the week as well as past letters learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Song • Alphabet board
Read the book: Letter of the week (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read through the story, asking lots of questions • Continue to make connections between book and alphabet board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Alphabet board
Group activity (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scavenger Hunt (See activity for detailed directions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Students will go around the room looking for the letter of the week and objects that start with that letter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of the week cards
Circle map review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the circle map completed yesterday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circle map completed yesterday
Individual activity (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the sorting activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Choose to use either picture symbols, actual letters in different fonts or BOTH!! ◦ Use color coding if needed for additional support (answer key included) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorting activity • Scissors • Glue
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student shares their finished sorting activity with the group using the communication method of their choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed activity • Communication devices

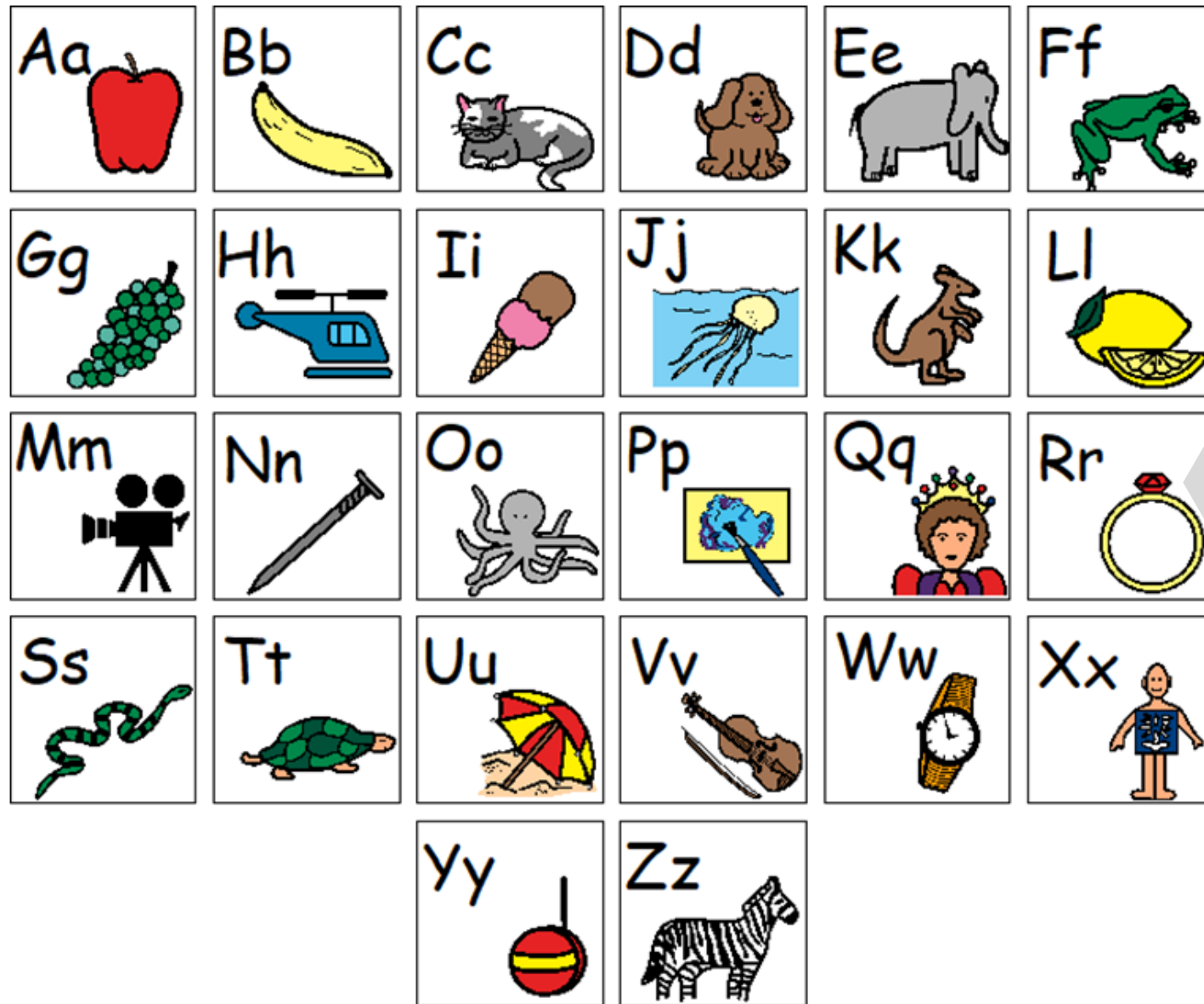
The lesson plans contain:

- Things to prepare and suggestions
- Overall look at week
- Detailed plan for each day

This unit comes with an alphabet board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!





Armadillo starts with A.

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This unit comes with a book for that letter. It has photos and simple, repeatable text.

Each daily lesson is started with this book.



Asparagus starts with A.

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

Listen to the
book on the
Letter A



Armadillo starts with A.

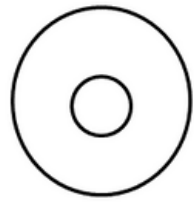
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If you do not want to print the book out, there is a link to a movie version (mp4 file) that you can play in a google slide online or project. It is read aloud and has automatic page advancement.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

- CLASS CIRCLE MAP
 - SCAVENGER HUNT
 - PAPER PLATE GAME
 - CRAFT
 - PICTURE RECIPE
-
- EACH GROUP ACTIVITY COMES WITH DIRECTIONS AND A LIST OF MATERIALS NEEDED
 - EVERY UNIT HAS THE SAME ACTIVITIES

Class Circle Map



- Preparation
 - Draw a large circle on a piece of poster board (I used a class trash can)
 - Either laminate or apply pieces of hook Velcro in random places within the circle
 - Cut out follow pictures, laminate and attach loop Velcro if using
- Directions
 - Place a post-it note in center of the letter of the week
 - Distribute prepared letter card symbols to the students.
 - Have them take turns bringing up cards and adding to circle
 - When complete, re-name all pictures in the circle
 - There are enough cards to use different cards throughout the week

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Day 1

The class circle map comes with directions and suggestions for modifications. There are 30 large picture cards included.

Letter A picture cards



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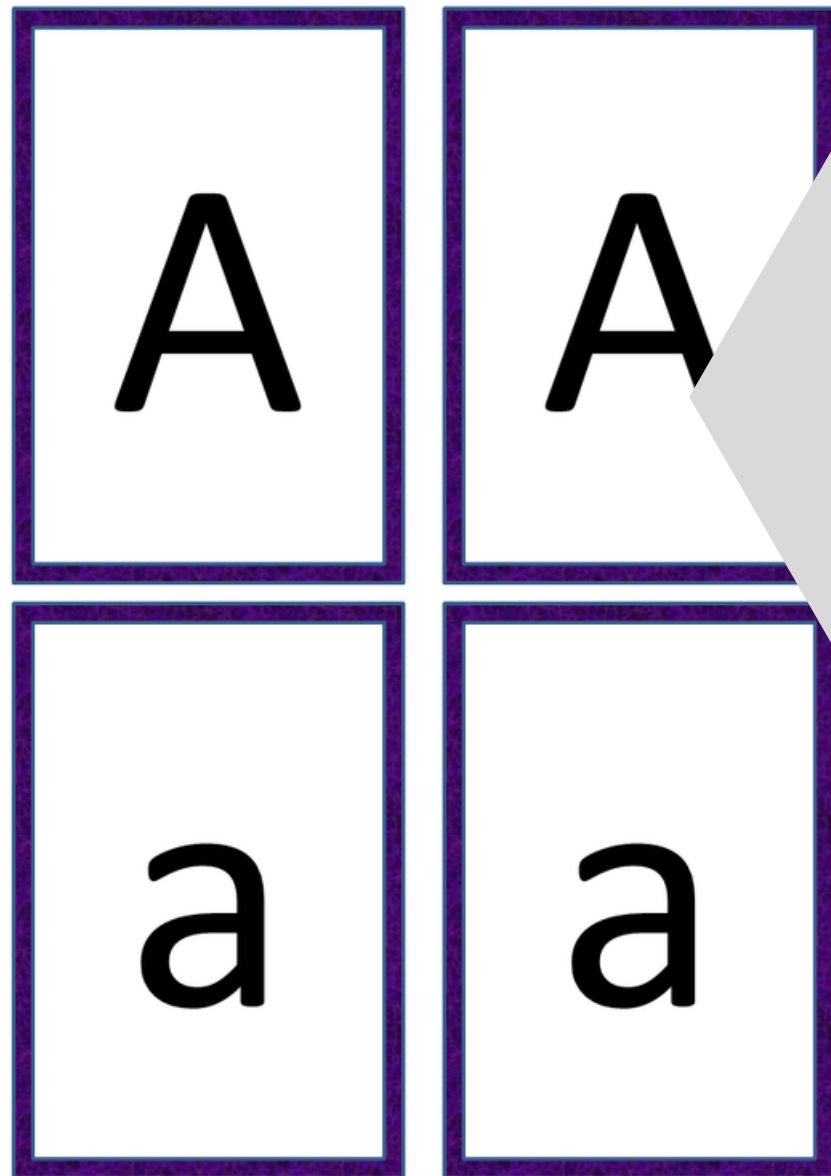


Class Scavenger Hunt



- **Preparation**
 - Print out as many copies of the letter card as you think you will need. Laminate for durability.
 - Place the letter cards on various things around the room that start with the letter of the week
- **Directions**
 - Have students walk around looking for items that start with the letter of the week
 - Once students find the letter label, they should attempt to name the item they have found
- **Differentiation**
 - For students that need more structure, give them a piece of poster board with blank spaces to show them how many letter cards they should try to find
 - For students still struggling, have pictures of what items they are to find and see if they can match the object that starts with the letter to the picture
- For *5 different ways to do a scavenger hunt*, check out this blog post with free hunts to download:
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2019/03/11/5-new-ways-to-use-a-scavenger-hunt-in-special-ed/>

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Day 2

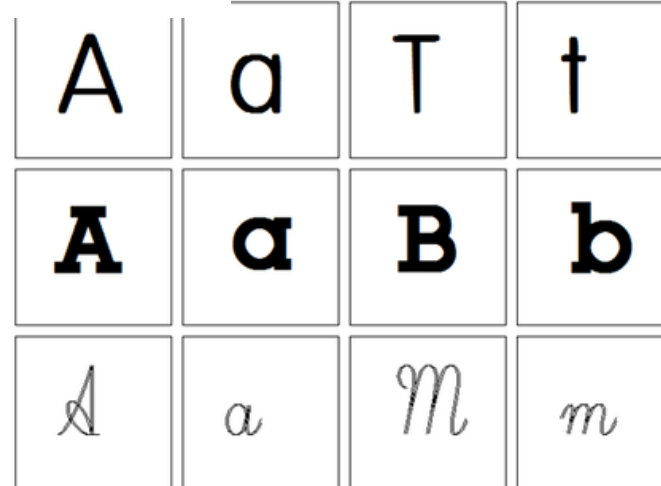
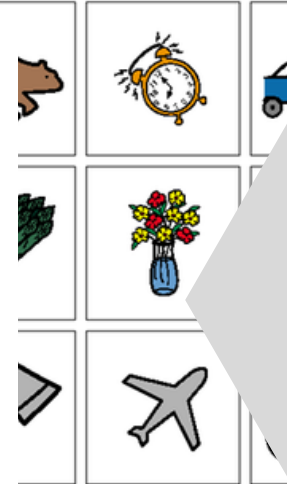
The scavenger hunt also comes with directions and modification options.

Pick up the Plates



- **Preparation**
 - Print out as many copies of the letter cards as you think you will need. Laminate for durability.
 - Print out letter of the week pictures and “distracters”
 - Attach letters and pictures to inexpensive paper plates
- **Directions**
 - Spread the paper plates around the classroom or work area on the floor
 - You can choose to either place them upside down for variation 1 or right side up for variation 2
 - Variation 1
 - Students take turn picking up a plate and bringing it back to their seat
 - The student gets to keep the plate if it is the letter of the week or a picture that begins with the letter of the week
 - Whoever has the most plates at the end of the games wins
 - Variation 2
 - Student looks at plates and tries to only pick up one that has the letter of the week or a picture that begins with that sound
 - Student gets to keep the plate if correct.
 - Whoever has the most plates at the end wins
- **Differentiation**
 - For students that need more structure, color code the letter of the week and the pictures that start with that letter the same background color. That way students are looking for a color as a cue to the correct answer.
 - Or, eliminate the distracters all together

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Day 3

The paper plate game gets kids up and moving around.



Ants in Our Picnic



- This craft is specifically designed for students with severe disabilities to enable them to complete it as independently as possible.
- This craft also addresses the sensory needs many of our students have.
- Directions
 - Print 1 copy of page 2 for each student
 - Give each student a medicine cup of black paint
 - Using a q-tip, students add ants to their picnic cloth, making 3 small dots close together



- After dry, draw on leg and antennae
- Once done, laminate and let students use as a placemat

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Day 4








Each week has a craft that is specifically designed so students can do much of it independently.

Day 5





Applesauce

Each week has a simple picture recipe that is done on day 5 as the last activity of the week.

Ingredients

10		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
1/2 cup	water	
		<input type="checkbox"/>
1 teaspoon	cinnamon	
		<input type="checkbox"/>
1 cup	sugar	

Directions

-  1. Check to make sure you have all the ingredients
-  2. Peel and core apples and cut into chunks.
-  3. Put all ingredients into crock pot.
-  4. Cook for 8 hours

Cooking

1. Peel and core apples



2. Cut apples into chunks.



3. Put everything in crock pot.

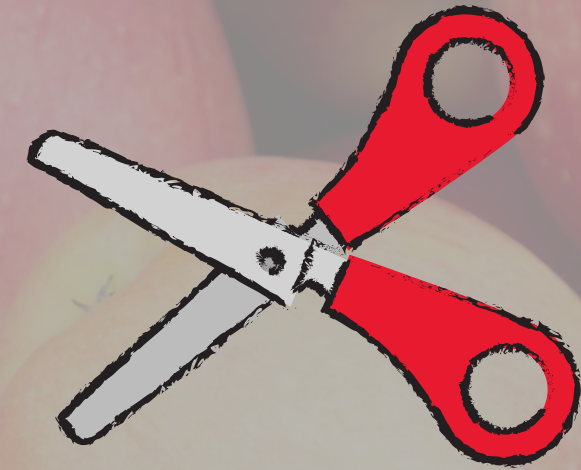


4. Cook 8 hours.



INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

- CIRCLE MAP
 - SORTING ACTIVITY
 - COLLAGE
 - CRAFT
 - ACTIVITY TO GO WITH A SOCIAL STORY
-
- EACH INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY COMES WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR DIFFERENTIATION
 - EVERY UNIT HAS THE SAME ACTIVITIES

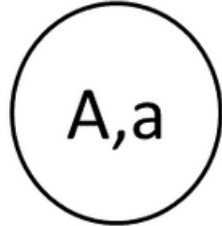
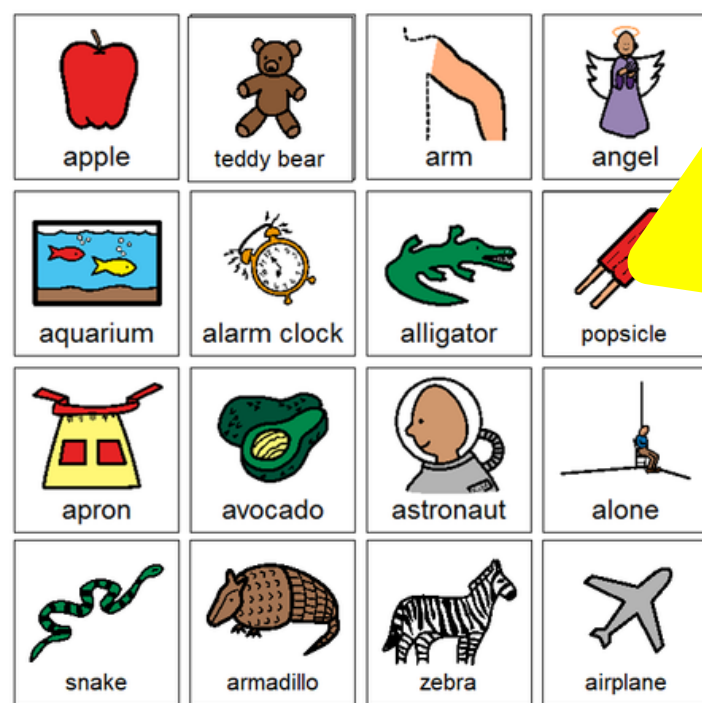
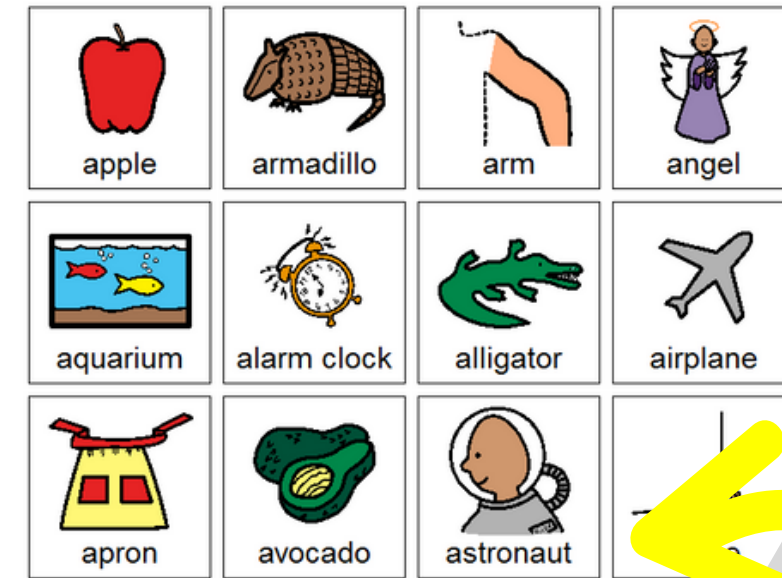


Day 1

Each circle map comes with 2 choices:

An errorless option with only correct answers

An option that has wrong answers mixed in students will need to set aside.























Day 2

There are sorting activities.

One sort uses pictures and one uses letters in various fonts.

Directions for differentiation are included..

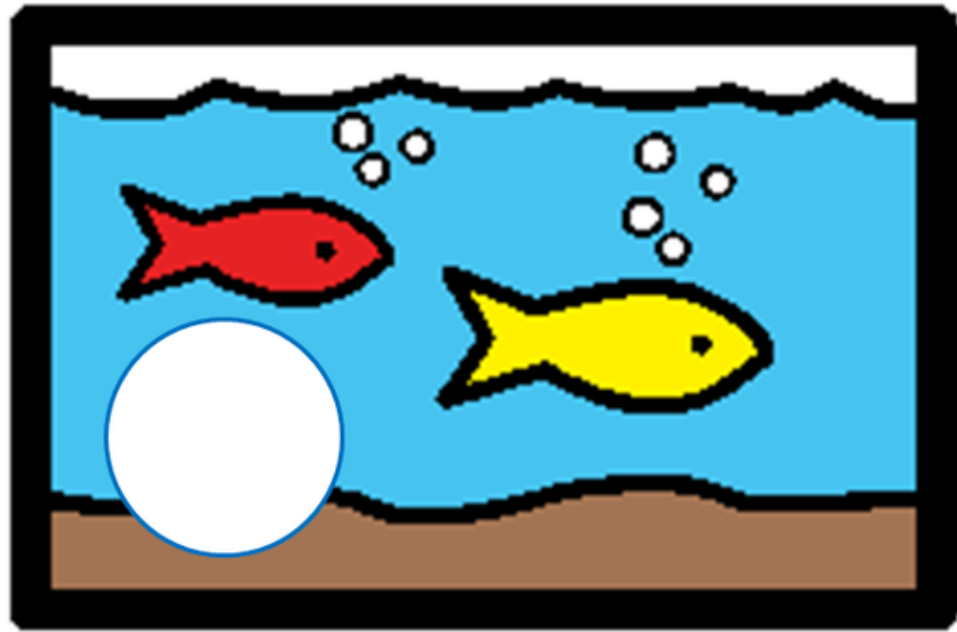
A,a		M,m		
				
				
				
				

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A,a		M,m	
m	M	a	A
m	M	a	A
M	M	a	A
m	M	a	A
m	M	a	A

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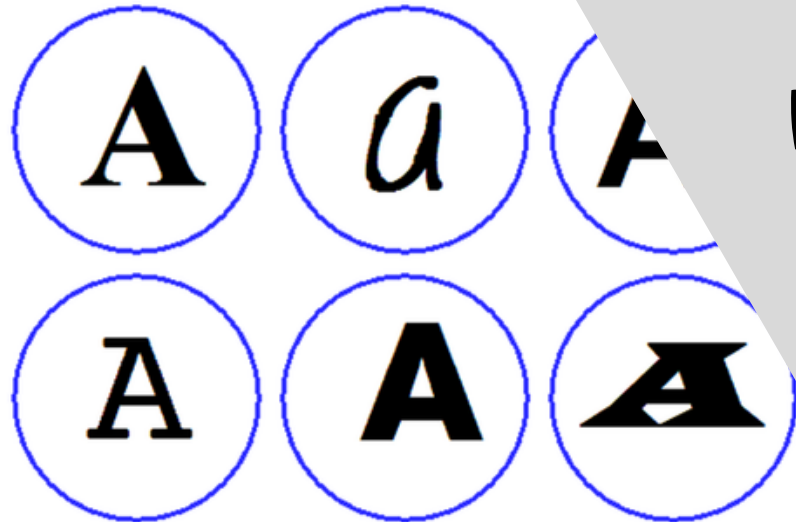
Day 3



The letter A is the aquarium.

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in front	in	behind	beside
between	over	under	on



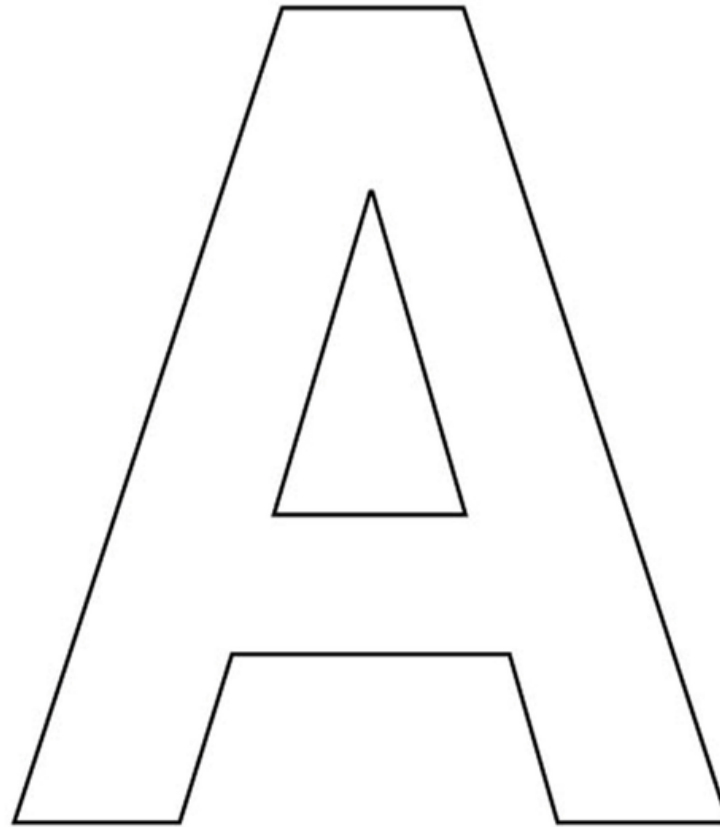
Students complete a preposition booklet indicating where the letter of the week is located in relation to various objects.

Letter A collage



- Directions
 - Print out one copy per student of the upper-case letter template on cardstock
 - Cover the interior of the letter with a layer of white liquid glue
 - Give students a cut of acorn caps
 - Students put one cap on at a time, filling interior of letter
- Option
 - If you do not want to purchase acorns, I would simply have students tear up some paper and fill the letter template with that
- Differentiation
 - Students can help apply glue using paint brushes
- Note: You can purchase acorns cheaply at Michael's craft store or you can buy 100 at Etsy.com for \$4.00

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Day 4

Students make a collage using a letter template and an item for that letter of the week. There are modifications and ways to differentiate included.



Johnny Appleseed was an interesting man.



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Day 5

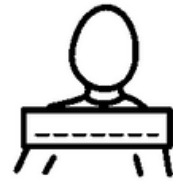
Each unit has a social story that ties into the letter of the week. This unit has one on Johnny Appleseed and has a black and white version.

He grew up with 9 brothers and sisters.



Page 4

His name was John Chapman.



Page 5

He worked with apple trees in a nursery when he was young.



Page 6

Later, he traveled down the Ohio River in a canoe filled with seeds.



Page 7

Day 5

There is an individual activity that relates to that social story.

This one is sequencing how an apples grows.



Sequencing labels (optional)

1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

seed **sprout**

blossoms **apples**

tree

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DIGITAL ACTIVITIES

- CIRCLE MAP
- 2 SORTING ACTIVITIES
- CIRCLE ALL THE OBJECTS STARTING WITH THE LETTER OF THE WEEK
- PREPOSITION BOOK
- ACTIVITY TO GO WITH A SOCIAL STORY

- THERE ARE 2 SETS OF SLIDES.
 - ONE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENTIATED WITH COLOR
- BOTH BOOKS ARE EMBEDDED AS MOVIES INTO THE SET OF SLIDES

Listen to the
book on the
Letter A



Armadillo starts with A.

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Students can watch the
movies of both the
letter of the week book
and the social story.

Great for review

Circle all the pictures of things that start with the letter **A**.

Circle all the pictures of things that start with the letter **A**.

A 5x4 grid of red circles for marking answers.

Each activity is set up so students can click and drag answers. No typing is required.

perfect for any learning level

A,a

M,m

Sort the following into the correct column depending on what letter they begin with.

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The second set of slides uses color for differentiation and extra support for students who may need it. Mix and match slides from both sets to make the perfect set for each student.

**Save money and get this unit as part of the
Letter of the Week Bundle**

CLICK HERE

