

Reading Quest

Ready for a reading quest? It's letters and words that will lead the way! This week's ideas are all about sparking a love of reading through letter and word play. From alphabet BINGO, to nonsense sentences, to word fishing, these activities will help build the foundation for a lifelong love of reading and a quest for the next great book!

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Rock the Alphabet



What does the alphabet have to do with rocks? Collect 26 rocks and paint each one with a letter of the alphabet for your very own alphabet rock collection. This activity offers an educational double whammy: As your kid paints each letter on a rock, he'll practice letter formation and work his fine motor skills, and once they're done and dry he'll practice learning the letters and their sounds as you turn the rocks into a letter learning game. Any excuse to get outside and enjoy a little active, energetic playtime with your child is thumbs up in our book!

What You Need:

- 26 rocks
- Paint
- Paintbrushes (small and medium)
- Water and a container for washing rocks

What You Do:

1. Start by going on a rock hunt. While you supervise, invite your child to search the yard, neighborhood, local park, nearby creek or stream for rocks of a manageable size that he can easily lift and move around.
2. Wash any dirt particles clinging to the rocks by soaking them in water and rinsing them. Let the rocks dry.
3. Now for the painting! Help him paint one letter of the alphabet on each rock so he has one rock for each letter by the time he's done. Encourage him to use a wide variety of different colors to make a vibrant collection. If he's unsure of how to paint any of the letters, have him practice on a scrap sheet of paper before painting on the rocks.
4. As he paints each letter, have him say its name and the sound(s) it makes. Can he think of a word that starts with that letter?
5. Once all the rocks are painted, place them aside to dry.
6. When the rocks are dry, use them to “label” objects in and around the house. For example, take an apple from the fruit basket and set the “A” rock beside it to show him that “A” is for “apple.” Repeat for the other letters; once he gets the hang of the activity, encourage him to find objects on his own.

Use your cool new collection again and again until your young learner has mastered the alphabet and letter sounds. Mix up the rocks and then challenge him to put them back in order, or work with the rocks to spell simple sight words.

Making ^{more} Sense of Nonsense

On this worksheet we have replaced the nonsense words with blanks. Fill in the blanks with words that you think might make sense. We've given you some help by telling you whether you need to use a verb, noun, proper noun, or adjective.

Jabberwocky

Revised

"Beware the _____, my son!

PROPER NOUN

The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!

Beware the _____ bird, and shun

PROPER NOUN

The _____ !"

ADJECTIVE

PROPER NOUN

He took his _____ sword in hand:

ADJECTIVE

Long time the _____ foe he sought--

ADJECTIVE

So rested he by the _____ tree,

PROPER NOUN

And stood a while in thought.

And, as in _____ thought he stood,

ADJECTIVE

The _____, with eyes of flame,

PROPER NOUN

Came whiffing through the _____ wood,

ADJECTIVE

And _____ as it came!

VERB

One, two! One, two! And through and through

The _____ blade went _____ !

ADJECTIVE

WRITE A SOUND

He left it dead, and with its head

He went _____ back.

VERB

Make ABC Sponge Stamps!



Practicing the ABC's can be repetitive and dull when the same teaching techniques are used over and over. Add some variety to your child's letter learning by making these darling sponge stamps together! Make one for all 26 letters and stamp out the sameness of teaching the alphabet. Your little one can use these sponge stamps to create a multitude of projects such as greeting cards, book covers, posters, and wrapping paper.

What You Need:

- Sponges (13 if you plan on fitting two letters per sponge)
- Fine tip marker
- Scissors
- Acrylic paints
- Paper bowls (one for each color of paint)
- Paper

What You Do:

1. Help your child trace the alphabet letters onto the sponges using a fine tip marker.
2. Cut the letters out of the sponges.
3. Pour the paints into paper bowls.
4. Now your child is ready to create an alphabet masterpiece! Dampen the stamps with water and squeeze out any excess water.
5. Have your child gently press the sponge stamp into the paint, and stamp away onto the paper. While he is making his chosen project, make sure to discuss the letters of the alphabet. Ask him to name the letters he is using, and encourage him to spell out any words or names he knows.

As an extension to this project, sing the "ABC song" together with your child and ask him to name objects that begin with each letter or sound.

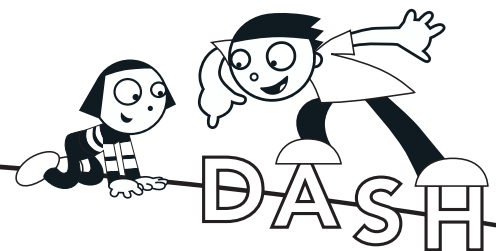
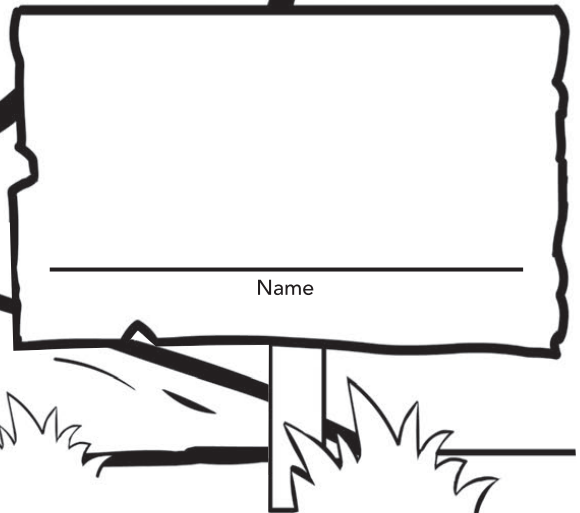
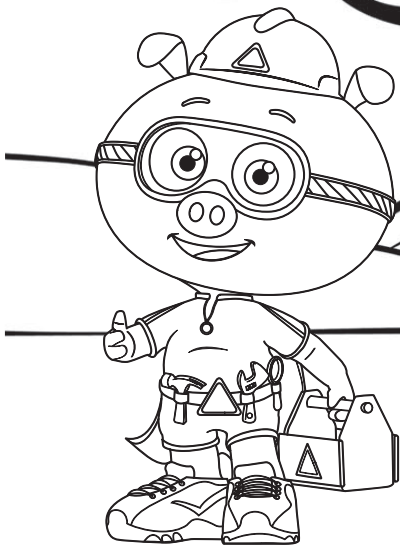
The Name Game

Alpha Pig... to the rescue!

Help Alpha Pig spell your name. First, color in the letters of the alphabet. Then, circle all of the letters in your name. Finally, write your name on the sign below.



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



Find more games and activities
at pbskids.org/read.

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Underwater I Spy Alphabet Bottle



Sparkly, glittery water is sure to attract little eyes. This alphabet bottle is fun to make and a great activity to keep your child busy either inside on a rainy day or traveling in the car. The craft helps kids recognize letters in a creative way, and is also a great time to start a quick conversation on recycling.

What You Need:

- Empty water or plastic soda bottle (best to use one without ridges)
- Alphabet beads from the craft store
- Glitter
- Sequins or any tiny sparkly things
- Corn syrup
- Water
- Sheet of paper
- Highlighter
- Glue gun (optional)

What You Do:

1. Write the alphabet from A-Z on a sheet of paper. Have your child lay all the beads from A-Z on the table. Check that she has all 26 letters and then drop them into the empty bottle.
2. Have your child drop in sequins. Help your child sprinkle some glitter inside.
3. Fill half the bottle with water and the other half with corn syrup. The corn syrup slows down the motion of the contents and helps the glitter not to stick together.
4. You can hot glue the lid onto the bottle so little hands don't spill.
5. Shake it up and watch the pretty water! How many letters can your child spy? Using the alphabet paper you wrote, have her highlight each letter she can find. Can she also spot the letters in her name? Have fun shaking!

Fish Me a Word



Want to help your child learn how to read and increase her vocabulary? Put down the books and pick up the fishing rod! This silly game is a fun way to introduce and reinforce sight words...by fishing for them! All your child needs are a few household “tools” and some creativity.

What You Need:

- List of sight words (see below)
- Construction paper
- Piece of string or yarn
- Large wooden spoon (for fishing rod)
- 12 paper clips
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Magnet (a small refrigerator one works great)

Sight words:

ate	be	black	brown
but	came	did	do
eat	four	get	good

What You Do:

1. Cut 12 fish shapes out of the construction paper. Using the list of sight words provided, either write one word on each fish, or cut the word out and paste in onto the fish. Let your child decorate the fish with markers or crayons.
2. Attach a paper clip to the tip of each fish.
3. Tie the yarn or string to the wooden spoon. Tie the magnet to the other end of the string.
4. Spread all of the fish out on the floor, or on a table.
5. Give your child the fishing rod and tell them it's time to go fishing! Each time you call out a word, she should look for the word you've said, and then try to catch it with her rod.
6. Each time she catches the correct fish, ask your child to shout out the letters—spelling the name of the word aloud. This helps with reinforcement.
7. Once your child gets the hang of it, make more fish. Here are a few more sight words to try: all, am, are, the, and, to, he, a, I, you, it, of, was, she, said, his, her, that, for, on, but, had, they, now, out, on, that, there, this, too

Happy fishing!

What's The WORD?

Use your letter circles to complete each word in a series. You must use all the letters and you can't use a letter more than once.



BEGINNER ROUND!

l p n t s

_rain

te_t

se_d

tal_

_ack

SECOND ROUND!

m c d r l s

g_ass

p_ide

_tick

_ouse

_all

pon_

FINAL ROUND!

s w h r l

_ess

tea_

_ing

pa_t

_ide

This one is for ALL the marbles!



Color Soup

Color the letters with the black dot (•) the same color to find out what I say when I eat soup.



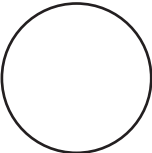
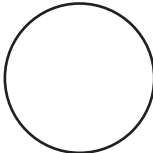
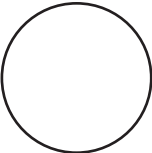
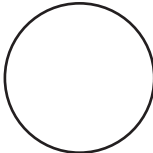
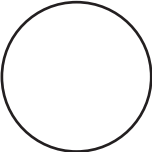
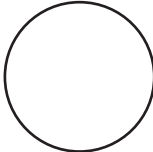
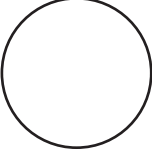
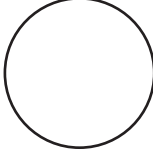
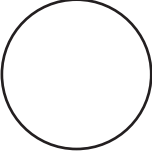
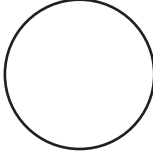
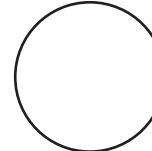
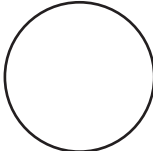
MARTHA SPEAKS™



Find more games and activities
at pbskids.org/read.

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Letter Bingo 1

	A	B	C	D	E	
	F	G	H	I	J	
	K	L	M	N	O	
	P	Q	R	S	T	
	U	V	W	X	Y	
						



INSTRUCTIONS: Color these circles and cut them out to use as chips, or grab a marker and cross them out as you go.

BONUS QUESTION: What letter is missing?
After you get BINGO, color in all the letters.

Alphabet and Number Derby!

1. Roll a die and move a game piece as many places as the number shown on the die.
2. Shout out the letter or number you land on.
3. Write down each letter or number you land on on a piece of paper.
4. The first player to the finish line is the winner.
5. See if you can spell a word by unscrambling the letters you collected by the end of the game!

START

R

5

C

W

n

x

E

3

M

u

H

d

F

y

L

Q

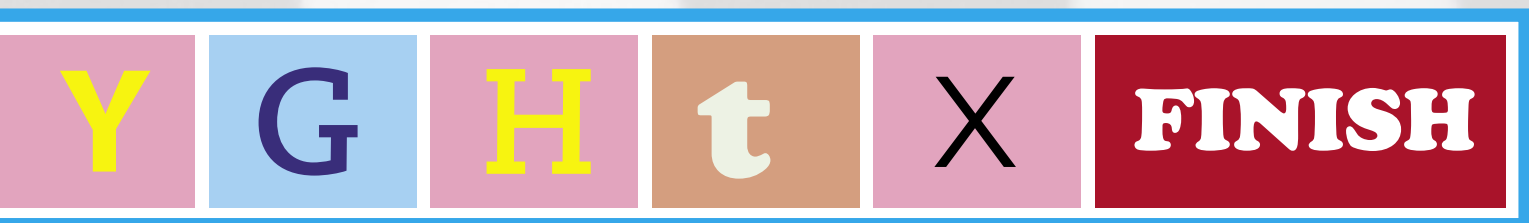
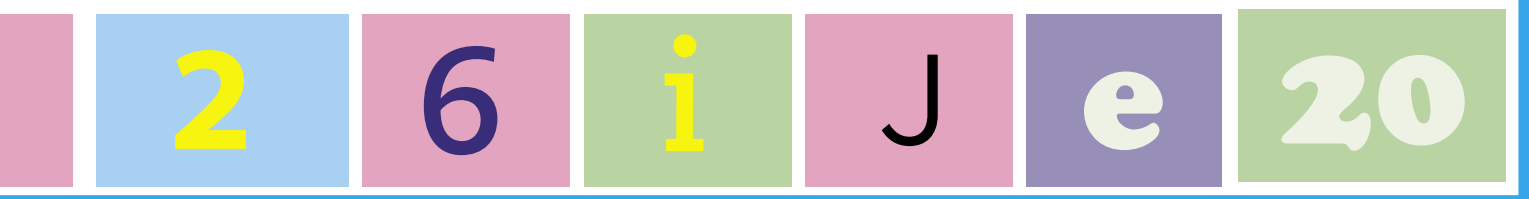
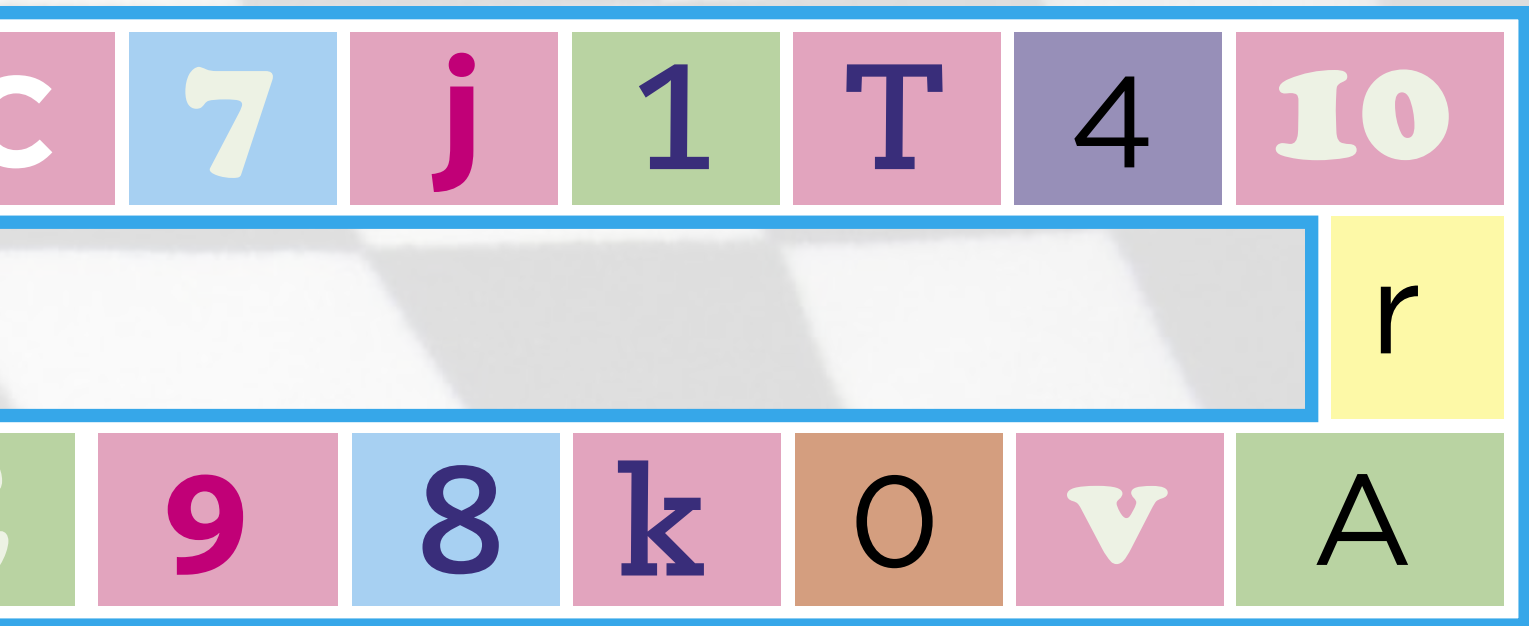
U

11

m

f

q

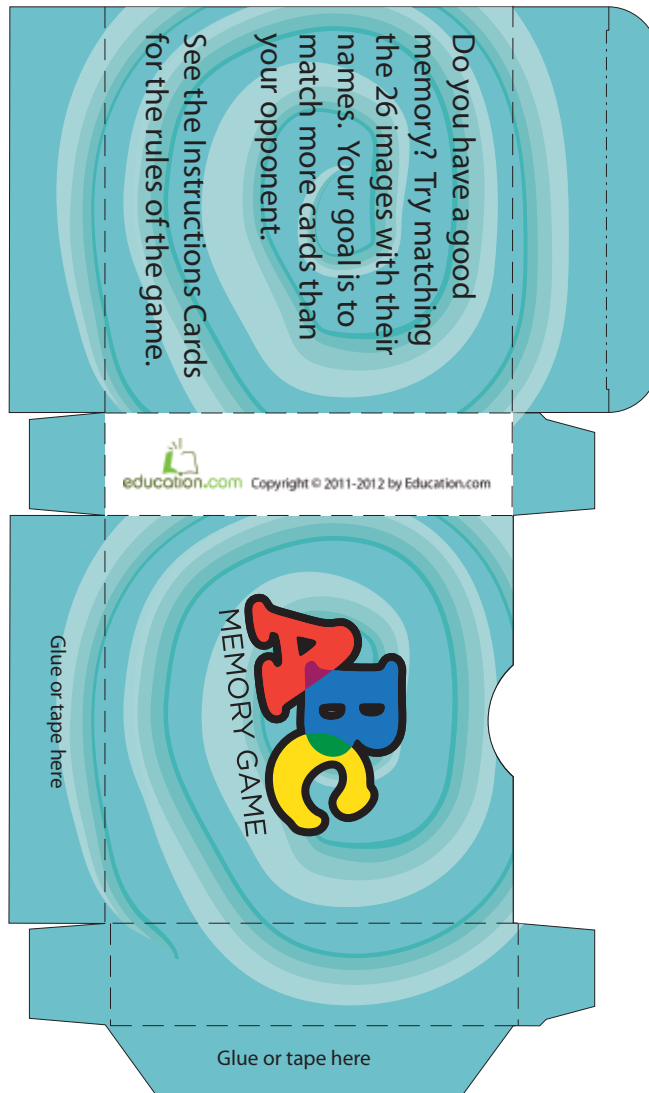




Ask an adult to help you out!

1. Print out a single copy of this page to keep.
2. Print pages 2 - 11 and tape or glue the backs to each card, or adjust your printer settings so that it will print pages 2 - 11 on both sides – the cards should line up with their back.
3. Cut out the cards and their box.
4. Fold the box along the dotted lines and tape or glue where indicated.

* For best results, print on thick paper.



1.

Place the cards face down in a grid pattern on a flat surface.

2.

Pick two cards. If you match a picture with its word, put the pair on your side. If your two cards don't match, put them back in their place.

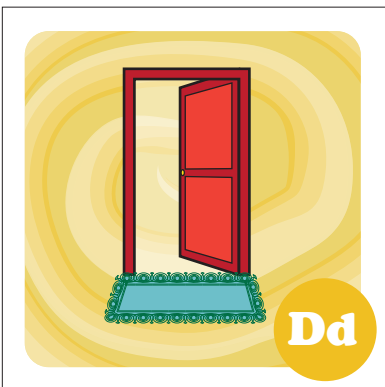
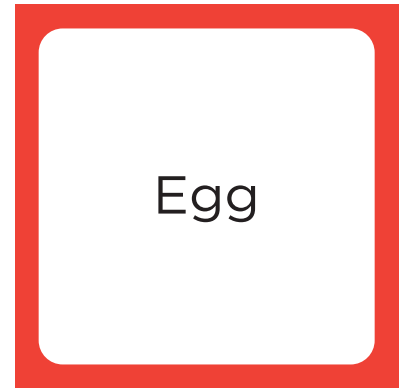
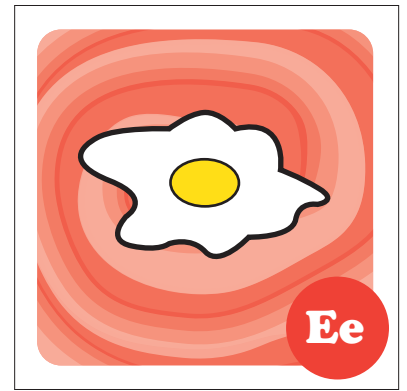
3.

Now it is the second player's turn to pick two cards, following the same rules.

4.

When all the pairs have been found, the player with the most matching pairs wins!

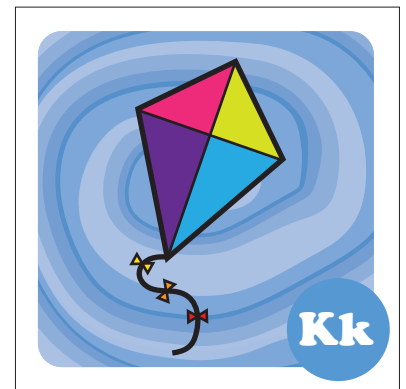






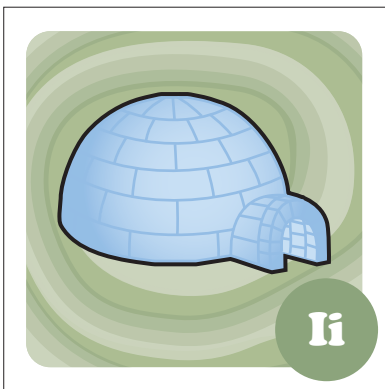


Grass



Hand

Kite



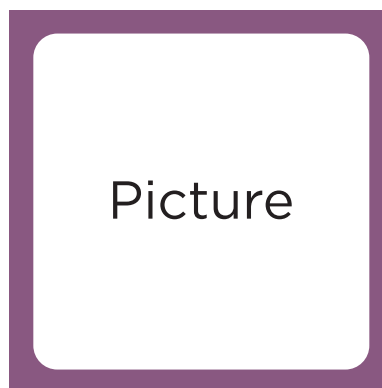
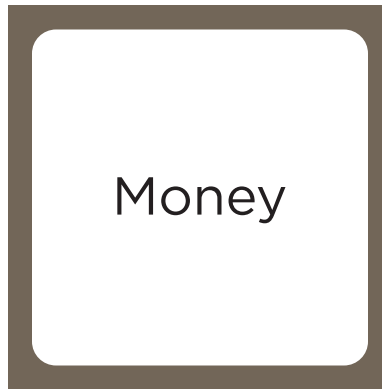
Igloo

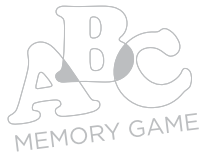


Juice

Letter









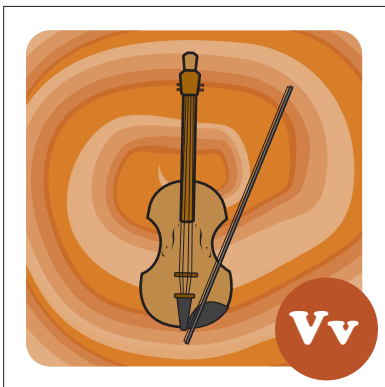
Santa
Claus



Tree

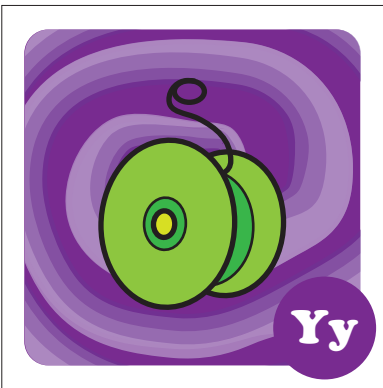


Umbrella



Violin





write a crazy SUMMER story!

Fill in this story with names of your summer friends and the correct parts of speech to come up with a truly outrageous story. Maybe some day this experience will happen to you!

One day, _____ and _____ decided to _____ while on
(NAME 1) (NAME 2) (VERB)
their summer vacation. _____ grabbed a _____ and hit the
(NAME 1) (NOUN)
road! _____ thought they should _____ which _____
(NAME 1) (VERB) (NAME 2)
thought was very wild. "It's summer vacation! We have to _____!"
(VERB)
_____ exclaimed. While on their journey _____ saw a
(NAME 1) (NAME 1)
_____ climbing a _____ and that scared _____. Later,
(ANIMAL) (NOUN) (NAME 2)
it was time for a snack so _____ suggested they eat _____
(NAME 2) (TYPE OF FOOD)
and _____ and drink _____ juice. Summertime is all about
(TYPE OF FOOD) (TYPE OF FOOD)
_____ experiences, and _____ and _____ wanted to
(ADJECTIVE) (NAME 1) (NAME 2)
make the most of it. After a quick _____ in the _____, it was
(VERB) (BODY OF WATER)
time to _____. It had been another _____ summer day!
(VERB) (ADJECTIVE)



Secret Message

Use the key below to reveal Martha's secret message.

19 20 1 25 3 15 15 12 9 14
20 8 5 4 15 7 4 1 25 19
15 6 19 21 13 13 5 18 !

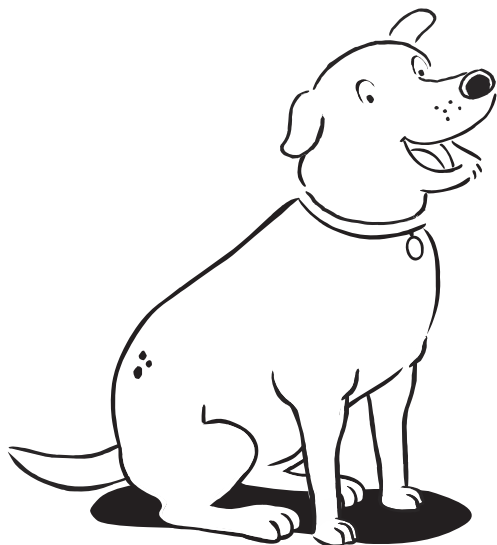
KEY:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

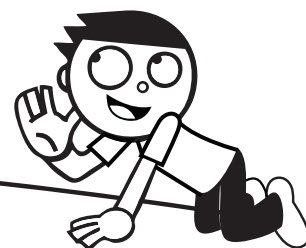
Can you create your own secret message using the key?



MARTHA
SPEAKS™



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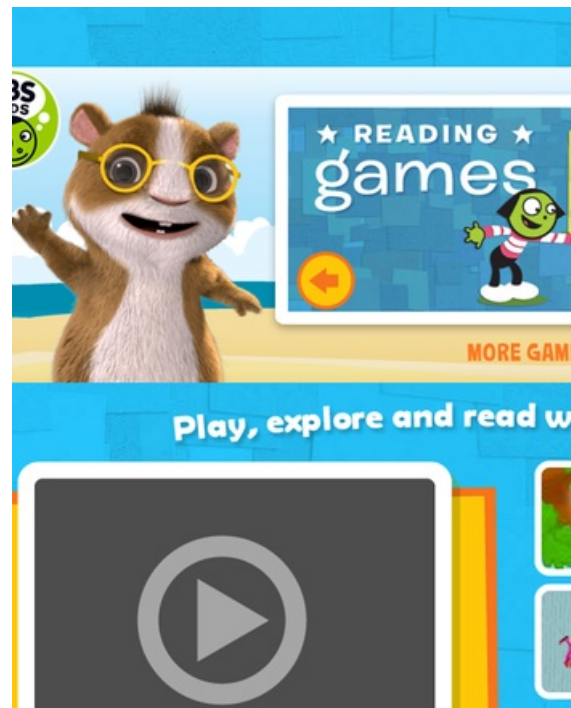


Summer Reading Essentials



Looking for more summer reading ideas? We've picked the best of the best of our most popular workbooks for every grade to help you make the most of your kid's summer. Avoid the summer slide and spark your child's imagination with our picks. [Check them out here!](#)

More to Explore!



Keep the learning going with literacy games from [PBS KIDS](#).

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Answer Sheets

Reading Quest

Fill in the Missing Letters

What's The WORD?

Use your letter circles to complete each word in a series. You must use all the letters and you can't use a letter more than once.



BEGINNER ROUND!

l p n t s

train

test

send

tall

pack

SECOND ROUND!

m c d r l s

glass

pride

stick

mouse

call

pondd

FINAL ROUND!

s w h r l

less

tear

wing

past

hide

This one is for ALL the marbles!

