

Table of Contents

Short A	5
Short E	16
Short I	26
Short O	36
Short U	46
Short Vowel Zoo	54
Long A	62
Long E	70
Long I	75
Long O	81
Long U	87
Long Vowel Farm	93
Y as a Vowel	99
Ar, Er, Ir, Or and Ur	103
Digraphs and Diphthongs	109
Vowel Games, Learning Centres, and Study Cards	119
Spelling Lists and Tips	133
Test Forms	135
Awards Certificates	138
Answer Key	140

To Teachers

Vowels presents a unique approach to introducing the long and short vowels to young children by integrating science, SOSE, and fine arts in the activities. Every unit is full of activity pages that allow the children to study a particular vowel sound inside and out, upside down and right-side-up until they “own” that vowel sound - it becomes a part of them.

Each chapter begins with an introduction page that presents the sound of a long or short vowel with pictures of animals. Also included for each sound is a sing-song rhyme page that the children can learn to read and repeat while they complete each vowel activity. The rhymes are illustrated with fun pictures that will capture a child's imagination. Children will love to colour them as they repeat the sing-song rhyme associated with each vowel sound. The animal colouring pictures and the rhyme pages can be saved. Both can be assembled into books which the children can take home.

The activity pages include puzzles, cut-and-paste pages, spelling activities, and other motivational activities. Reproducible forms are provided on pages 135-137. These can be used for listing words in alphabetical order or for making your own activity sheets.

“I Own It!” Awards are at the end of the book. There is one for each vowel sound. When a child completes all the activities for a sound and can demonstrate that he understands the concept, then he “owns” that vowel sound and should receive recognition and be awarded a certificate. The awards can be collected in a book, pasted onto a chart, or even made into a mobile and displayed in class or at home.

The important thing to remember is to focus on the celebration of learning each vowel sound. Make each activity fun and a real celebration!

Special Teaching Tips

Educators know that children learn in different ways. Some children learn best from hearing information, others must see it, still others must say it. That is quite a challenge when teaching children the vowel sounds! But you will find herein, activities that will help young learners experience the vowels in a variety of fun-filled ways.

1. Remember, many students will not be able to read the directions found on each page, so begin each vowel activity by reading the directions to the students. Make sure each student understands what he must do to complete the page before having him work independently.
2. When introducing an activity page, begin by naming all of the picture-words on the page. Children cannot recognise a sound in a word if they cannot correctly identify the word. Have children say the names of the animals, listening for a particular vowel sound, before they begin colouring these pages. Save the colouring sheets to be assembled later into an Animal Vowel Book.
3. When reading a rhyme, repeat it several times and have the children recite it, too. Encourage students to sing it to a familiar tune, use it as a skipping rope rhyme, or put actions to it. Complete each rhyme activity sheet and save to assemble later as a vowel rhyme book.
4. Celebrate each vowel sound with the colossal collection of hidden pictures, mazes, cut-and-paste, and puzzles included in each unit designed especially for young children. You will find that each activity sheet in this book can easily be extended into small group, large group, or classroom activities. Murals and notice boards that emphasise vowel sounds will reinforce the concepts introduced in each chapter. Class contests to see who can write the longest list of words having a certain sound may be a good challenge for your students. Creative writing stories that contain as many words as possible having a certain vowel sound is yet another way to extend learning. Flash cards, games, word lists, and learning centres are also included for varied learning techniques.
5. Activities start from basic short and long vowels and progress into controlled vowels, vowel digraphs, and vowel diphthongs. The more complex pages can be saved until the younger child is able to grasp the concepts without being frustrated. You, the teacher, will know the best way to reinforce the sounds introduced in Vowels, but any of the ways you choose to practise vowel sounds, you are sure to find that phonics can be exciting and creative when children use the pages herein. Have fun as you take your students on many creative vowel adventures!

Name _____

Animal Antics

Circle the letters that make the short A sound.

A hungry alligator opened wide,
And an albatross accidentally flew inside.
"Ahh!" screamed the albatross. "What shall I do?"
Then he tickled that 'gator with a feather or two.
The alligator sneezed, "A-a-a-choo!"
And out that albatross safely flew.

Circle the hidden letters in the picture that make the short A sound. Colour the animals that have the short A sound in their names.

