

Grade level: 2-6

Summary:

In this lesson students use keyboarding skills to learn about words. Students enter words, print and categorize according to vowels, prefixes, suffixes, syllables, rhymes, etc.

Technology tools:

AlphaSmart 3000, printer

Additional resources:

1. [Making Words](#) by Patricia Cunningham
2. [Making Bigger Words](#) by Patricia Cunningham

Step-by-step tasks:

1. Teachers give the students the list of letters they will need and the students will type them on the first line of their AlphaSmart 3000. They will also write them down so they will have them readily available. These letters when put into the correct order will form a mystery word.



Use Get Utility to send letters to individual AlphaSmart 3000s. Use the AlphaHub with AlphaSmart Manager software to send letters to all AlphaSmarts at one time.

2. Explain to the students that they are to use only the letters given to make words. For example if there is only one letter B. They can only use B one time in the word they make.
3. Have students type in the words they make in a list format. Explain to the students that after they type the word in to hit the enter key to go to the next line for the next word they will make.
4. Have them begin by making all the 2 or 3 letter words they can and then continue with 4 or more letter words. The last word should be the mystery word that can be made with all the letters you gave them.
5. When students have made all the words they can, have them print out their list for the word sort.
6. Give them the categories for the word sort. Sort all the words you made into 1, 2, or 3 syllables or sort them by long and short vowel sounds. Have students use a different colored pencil to circle the words and group them into the categories you have set.

Extension ideas:

1. After sorting the words, you can have your students choose 5 or 6 of the words they made and use them in a story. They can then type their finished story on the AlphaSmart 3000, print and illustrate it.
2. You can even give them a word or phrase such as “Back To School” and have them make words with these letters.

Home-to-school connection:

Send home another list of letters and have them complete this same activity at home with the AlphaSmart or with pencil and paper.