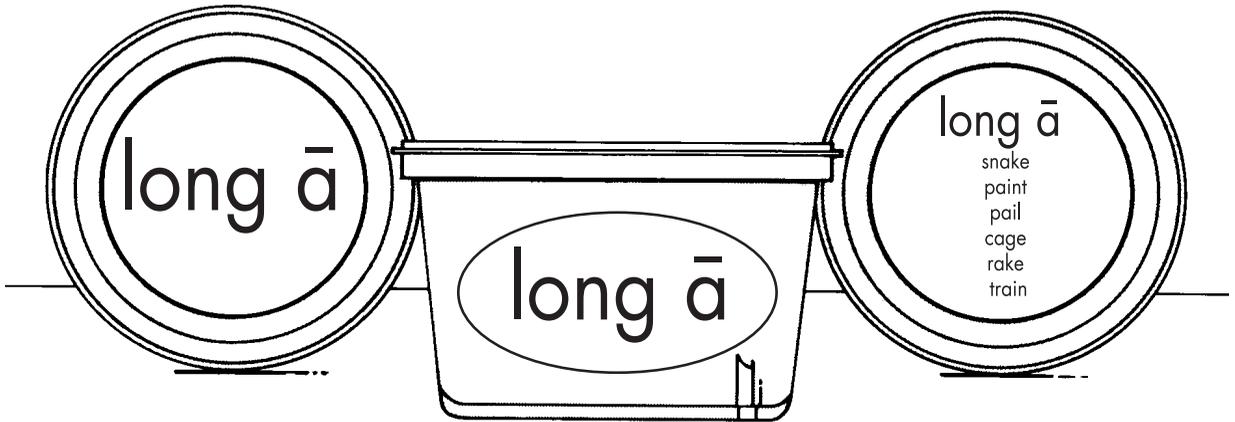


Vowel Sounds Teaching Tubs



The Vowel Sounds Teaching Tubs are designed to help students develop early reading skills—and have fun in the process! As students use the miniatures in a variety of skill-building and creative activities, they will learn to hear, read, and write vowels. This in turn will help them gain greater confidence in oral and written language.

What's Included

- 10 stackable tubs with lids
- 30 labels
- 60 assorted miniature objects

Putting It All Together

First, place the self-adhesive sticker labels on the tubs. Label the lids one at a time: Put a round label with a vowel on the top of one lid, then flip the lid over and place the label with the list of items on the back side. (The list will help you remember which objects go in that tub.) Continue this procedure until all of the lids are labeled. Afterward, label the sides of the tubs with the oval labels (one per tub).



Now comes the exciting part: exploring and sorting the miniature objects! Use the list provided to help you sort the miniatures and place them in the appropriate tubs. Some objects can be called by more than one name, of course. For example, the red rose could be called either a flower or a rose. We've called it a rose and listed it in the "long o" tub.

LONG Ā cage pail paint rake snake train	LONG Ē cheese leaf teeth three tree wheel	LONG Ī bike bride dime kite pie tire	LONG Ō boat bone bow globe hose rose	LONG Ū blue cube glue juice mule tube
SHORT Ǻ bat can crab flag jack lamb	SHORT Ĕ bell bench egg net sled web	SHORT Ĭ bib fins fish gift milk pig	SHORT Ǫ block box clock frog mop sock	SHORT Ǫ bug mug rug skunk sun truck

Listening and Speaking Activities

The first step for students is to recognize the sounds that the vowels make. Remind students that a *long vowel* says its own name, such as the "o" in "bone." A short vowel does not say its own name. The following activities will give students practice in saying and listening for long and short vowels.

Vowel Songs

Reinforce the names of the vowels by singing them to the tune of "Bingo":

The alphabet has many sounds
 And five of them are vowels.
 A, E, I, O, U—A, E, I, O, U—A, E, I, O, U,
 And five of them are vowels.

Or, try this song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb":

The alphabet has 5 vowel sounds, 5 vowel sounds, 5 vowel sounds.
 The alphabet has 5 vowel sounds—A, E, I, O, U.

Introduction to the Vowel Teaching Tubs

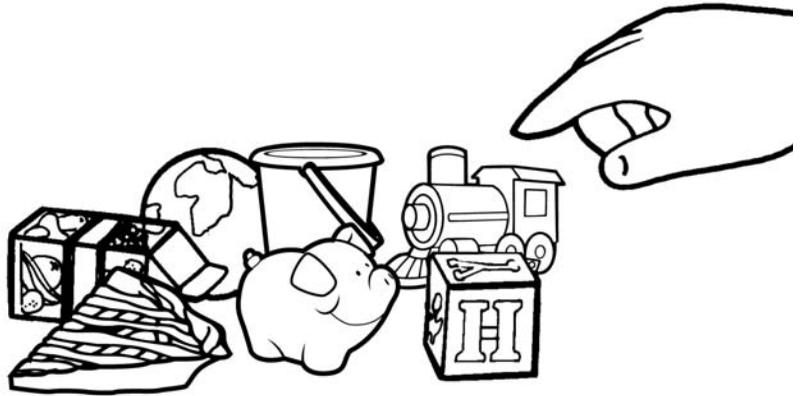
Use this small-group activity to introduce any of the tubs to your class. Gather the group together at a table or on the floor. Begin by taking out each object from one tub and saying its name. Invite the students to examine the objects and say each word aloud. Then ask, "What sound do you hear repeated in all of the words?" Ask the students to say the words again with you, this time emphasizing the vowel sound (for example, "r-ō-ō-ō-se" or "r-ā-ā-ā-ke"). Show the tub lid to the group and point to the long or short vowel on the label. Tell them that this letter makes the vowel sound for each of the words they said.

Sound Detectives

Tell the students they are going to be "sound detectives" as you say several words. Choose a long or short vowel, such as "long e," that you want to emphasize. Explain that each time they hear a word that has an /ē/ sound, they are to stand; if the word contains a different sound, they are to sit. Then say the words one by one, giving each child enough time to distinguish its vowel sound. If a student has difficulty identifying the vowel, encourage the student to say the word with you. Encourage the group to take time to listen.

I Spy

Take one object from two or more tubs, place the objects in front of the group, and say, "I spy something that has the /ā/ (as in "train") sound. Can everyone guess which one has the /ā/ sound? If you have an answer, please raise your hand." Ask students to indicate which object it is. Continue playing until all of the objects have been named.



Find the Partners

Put three objects on a table. Two of the objects should contain the same vowel. One by one, ask students to say the names of the objects out loud, and then find the "partners." Repeat the activity with other sets of three objects.

Challenge older students with this fun variation: Choose two items from each tub and scramble them in a pile. Ask the students to choose an item from the pile and to say its name out loud. They can then look for the item's partner by choosing and saying the names of some other items until they find one that shares the same vowel sound. Once they've found the partner, ask them to pick up another object and find its partner. When they have completed the activity, they will have 10 pairs of manipulatives.

Feely Bag Fun

Place the objects from several tubs into a feely bag. Put the empty tubs in the center of the group. Pass the feely bag around the group and invite one student at a time to reach in and pull out an object. Ask the student to look at the object, name it, and identify the vowel sound. Ask the student to put the object in the correct tub and pass the bag to the next player. (Students can also do this activity at a learning center.)

For another fun game, try this variation: Select an object from a tub and put it in a small paper bag. Then, tell a riddle about the object, such as, "This is an object with stars and stripes. Its vowel sound is the same as the one in 'bat' and 'crab.' What's in the bag?" When a student volunteers the answer, "flag," ask the student to remove the object from the bag to see if the answer was correct. That student can then choose the tub in which the miniature belongs.

Here are some additional riddles to get you started:

- "This is something you drink. Its vowel sound is the same as the one in 'fins' and 'pig.' What's in the bag?" (milk)
- "Here's an animal that has a white stripe. Its vowel sound is the same as the one in 'truck' and 'bug.' What's in the bag?" (skunk)
- "Here's something you eat for breakfast. Its vowel sound is the same as the one in 'bell' and 'web.' What's in the bag?" (egg)

Add-A-Word Game

Help your students develop an ear for long and short vowels with this activity. Invite the students to sit in a circle. Choose one of the tubs (the "long u" tub, for example). Begin the game by asking the class to think of as many words as they can that contain the "long /ū/" vowel sound. Create a simple sentence, such as "I use glue." Say the sentence out loud, and then ask a student to repeat it, adding to the list: "I use glue and a tube." The next student adds another "long u" word to the list. Play continues until the students run out of words. Start a new round with another tub. Examples of easy sentences to begin the game are: "I like the pie," "Ken went to get the sled" and "Joan owned only a bone." Let the class know that silly sentences are part of the fun of this activity!

Say a Super Sentence

Take all of the objects from one tub and place them in the center of a group of students. Ask, "Can we make sentences using two of the objects?" If you wish, you may start this activity and then let the students join in. Feel free to use words containing the same vowel sound but are not represented in the tubs. Remember, silly sentences are okay!

Here are some examples:

The snake slithered into the pail.

The bride rides a bike!

I use a hose to water the rose.

Long, Like Bike? or Short, Like Pig?

This activity allows students to hear the difference between long and short vowels. Choose two tubs with the same vowel, one long and one short (the “long i” and “short i” tubs, for example). Put all of the miniatures from the two tubs into a pile and mix them up. Ask students to choose a miniature, say its name, and then place it in the appropriate tub.

Reading Activities

Mini Matching

This activity may be played as a silent game after you’ve explained it to the class. First, choose two or three tubs and spread their contents out on a table next to the empty tubs. Write the names of the tub items on the board or on an easel. Point to one of the words on the list. The group remains quiet, but thinks of the object represented by the word. Then, ask for a volunteer (or wait until a student raises her hand, if you are playing a silent game). The student you select will find the appropriate miniature and put it in the correct tub. Continue the game by choosing a new word and inviting another student who raises his hand to place the appropriate miniature in its tub.

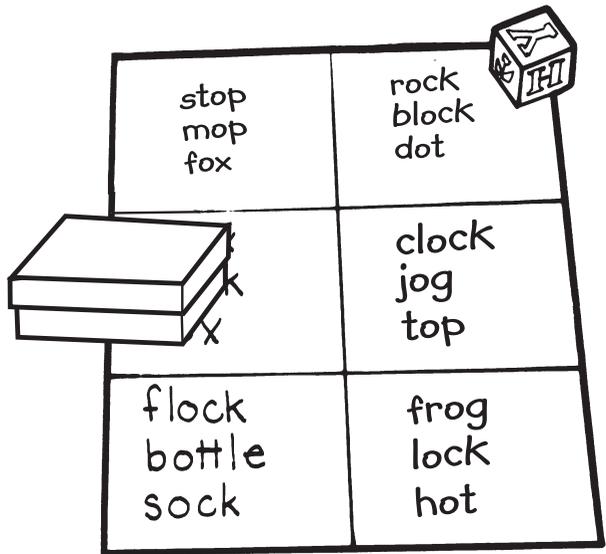
A variation of the game is to reverse it! This time, hold up a miniature and invite students to point to the word it represents. Students can repeat this activity by working with partners at a learning center.

Card Match-Up

Create a set of six index cards for each vowel tub. On each card, write the name of one of the miniatures in the tub. Students will select a tub and a set of cards (such as the “short a” tub and cards) and match each miniature to its appropriate card. For example, the student will select the “crab” card, then find the miniature crab to go along with it. Students can continue the activity by selecting another tub.

Which One Is It?

Create reading worksheets for your students. Each tub will have one worksheet. Divide the worksheet into six squares, one for each miniature. Write three words in each square, one of which is the name of a miniature. All the words should contain the tub's vowel sound. For example, on the "short o" worksheet, the square for "mop" can contain the words "mop," "fox," and "stop." Once the worksheet is completed, students can use it independently at a learning center. The students read all three words in one of the boxes. Then they find the miniature that belongs in the box. We've included lists of words for each of the tubs to get you started.



<p>SHORT Ä</p> <p>rat last sat fast cat flag tag drag can back bat lamb rag mask gas crab bag jack</p>	<p>SHORT Ě</p> <p>fell fled ten sled red tent bell swell met bend egg pedal bed net end blend web bench</p>	<p>SHORT Ĩ</p> <p>pig sick hit ring fix thin bib milk pill click lick chick mix witch fins gift pick fish</p>	<p>SHORT Ŏ</p> <p>fox plot hot lock pot oxen not cloth mop flock box clock sock block stop bottle tot frog</p>	<p>SHORT Ũ</p> <p>tub stub run club rub skull rug hunt hug duck bug truck bull under sun mug jug skunk</p>
<p>LONG Ā</p> <p>lay scale pay pail bait braid rake paint cape plane train snake tape brave cage bacon baby whale</p>	<p>LONG Ē</p> <p>eat fleet key sheet leaf teeth feel three feet cheat tree sweet deal wheel heel wheat beet cheese</p>	<p>LONG Ī</p> <p>tile bike tire fried file kite fire tried tide tiger bite dime side cried pie bride dine white</p>	<p>LONG Ō</p> <p>toe blow low bone rose show boat froze bow hose cone globe mow home snow phone nose tomato</p>	<p>LONG Ū</p> <p>use rude clue ruler unit tube blue juice glue cruel cube mule huge true due unicorn duty unicycle</p>

Vowel Hunt

Choose a particular vowel sound (such as short /ŭ/) for your students. Ask them to “hunt” for words containing the chosen vowel in the books they are reading. Invite them to read and enjoy a book, and then go back, find the words, and share them with the class.

Writing Activities

Copy the Word

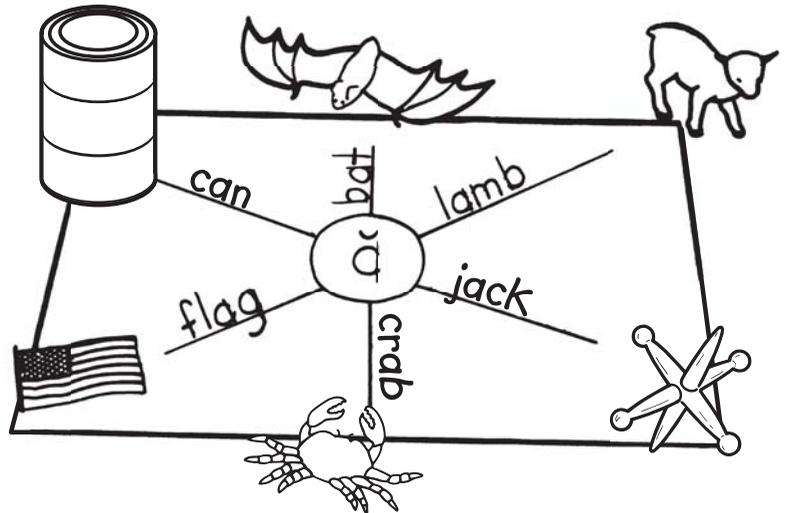
Younger students can develop early writing skills with this activity. First, write a word from one of the tubs on a piece of paper (or prepare a worksheet in advance). Ask students to write the word several times underneath your example. After they’ve had some practice writing the word, ask them to underline the vowels in the words they’ve just written. Older students can copy words directly from the tub lids on their own.

Vowel Booklets

Invite the class to make booklets featuring a particular vowel sound. Fold a sheet of construction paper in half to create a four-page booklet. Ask them to choose a vowel and print it clearly on the cover page and in small letters at the top of each page. Invite the students to draw a picture of tub items or other words that contain that vowel on each page. They can also clip out pictures from magazines and paste them into their booklets. Older students can write the words in their booklets below each illustration.

Circle of Words

After you explain this activity, students can work on it independently at a learning center. Ask the students to select one tub. Then, on a piece of paper, ask them to write the vowel in the center and circle it. Next, they can draw lines from the center circle outward, like the spokes of a wheel. Ask them to place a miniature at the end of each spoke, and then write the word represented by the miniature on the spoke itself. Encourage older students to think of and write out words not represented by objects in the tub.

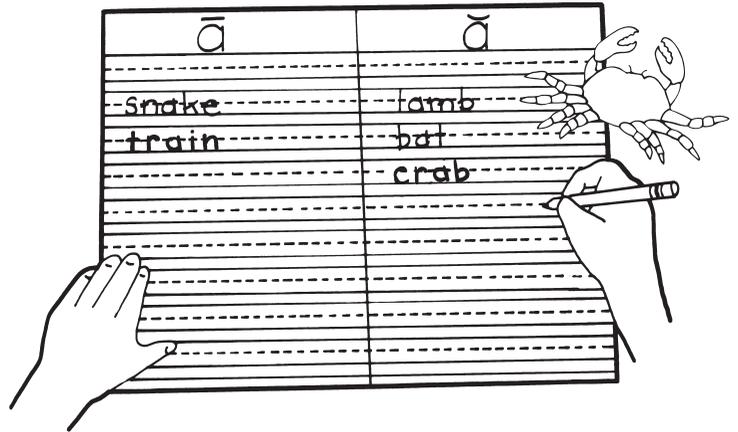


Describe an Object

This activity is fun and allows students to practice all of the vowels. Ask each student to choose any object they like. Ask the students to place their objects in front of them, and then write words to describe the objects. The challenge is to use as many vowel sounds as they can. For example, for "lamb," a student could write "white, soft, furry, cute, young." Ask students to underline the vowels.

Short or Long

Prepare vowel worksheets for the class. These simple worksheets are divided into two columns. At the top of one column, write the name of a long vowel, such as "long a"; at the top of the other, write "short a." Do this for each vowel. Give students a pile of miniatures from the two tubs indicated by the letters at the top of the columns. Ask them to write the name of each miniature in the appropriate column. Encourage the class to complete all five worksheets.



Write Down Sentences...and Stories

After students have practiced making up sentences using objects from the tubs with the "Say a Super Sentence" activity on pages 4 and 5, invite them to write out their sentences. Challenge older students to try using three items from one tub in one sentence. Ask them to underline the vowels. If they wish, students may illustrate their sentences.

For a more advanced activity, invite students to choose several items from several tubs and write a story about all of the objects. Ask them to underline the vowels. Again, students may illustrate their stories.

What if I Lose an Object?

Not to worry! Replacement objects are available as long as our supply lasts at a cost of \$1.50, plus \$2.00 shipping. (If you are ordering more than one object, you need only include the shipping charge once.) We will try to supply you with the exact object you are missing. If we are unable to give you the exact object, we will ship an object with the same vowel sound in its name. Please call Customer Service at (800) 428-4414, Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. PST.