

Alpha-Mania

pre-reading fun
FOR AGES 3-5

A Pirate Life

Lesson Plans



ruth rumack's
LEARNING SPACE

Schedule Overview						
	Letter	Keyword	Craft	Phonological Awareness Skills	Story Time	Pre-Writing Skills
Lesson 1	H	Hat	Pirate Hats	Rhyming Initial Sounds	<i>Captain Ray and the Rhyming Pirates</i> By: Jennifer Makwana	Sandpaper Letters
Lesson 2	E	Emerald	Emerald Pendant	Blending Initial Sounds	<i>Slamo's Secret Treasure</i> By: Jennifer Makwana	Sensory Trays
Lesson 3	X	X Marks the Spot	Treasure Map Picture Collage	Alliteration Initial Sounds	<i>The Fantastic Floating Feast</i> By: Danielle Van Bakel	Shaving Cream Letters
Lesson 4	V	Volcano	Vibrant Volcano	Segmenting - Syllabication Initial Sounds	<i>The Splitter Critter and the Greedy Pirates</i> By: Jennifer Makwana	Bingo Dabbers
Lesson 5	T	Treasure	Treasure Chests	Sound Manipulation Initial Sounds	<i>The Great Riddle Race</i> By: Jennifer Makwana	Sculpting Letters

Lesson: 1

Letter: H

Keyword: Hat

Lesson Checklist

Circle Time:

- o ABC Chart
- o Guess the Picture Supplies

Craft:

- o Pre-cut black, and other colored, Bristol board pirate hats, and white skull and cross bones (from the templates in the folder "Pirates Supplemental Materials")
- o Long strips of black Bristol board, for the head band (1 per child)
- o Extra sheets of construction paper
- o Glue
- o Stapler
- o Child scissors
- o Feathers (in a variety of colors)
- o Jewels, sequins and glitter

Song/Movement Activity:

- o Song lyrics

Phonological Awareness Activities:

- o Copy of Pirate Rhymes sentences (included in Lesson Plan)
- o Bins filled with sand
- o A variety of objects beginning with the target sound and a few that do not to act as decoys
- o Shovels

Story Time:

- o Storybook

Pre-Writing Skills:

- o Sandpaper
- o Letter practice/coloring pages
- o Coloring materials



Circle Time

Approx. Time: 10 min

- Alpha-Mania song
- Alphabet song (sung two ways)
- Guess the Picture
- Picture riddles

Refer to p. 7 of Instructor's Manual for detailed instructions of each step.

Lesson: 1

Letter: H

Keyword: Hat

Craft

Approx. Time: 15 min

Paper Hats

Discussion Questions

Do you know any pirates from books or movies? Who are they?

Do you think pirates are good or bad? Explain.

Why do think pirates are often missing a leg or a hand?

Aside from a parrot, which other pet would you recommend to a pirate?

When not searching for treasure, what do you think pirates like to do in their spare time?

If you were a pirate, what type of treasure would you hope to find?

Craft Instructions

- In the center of the table, put out the following materials:
 - Pre-cut black, and other colored, Bristol board pirate hats, and white skull and cross bones (from the templates in the folder "Pirates Supplemental Materials")
 - Long strips of black Bristol board, for the head band (1 per child)
 - Extra sheets of construction paper
 - Glue
 - Stapler
 - Child scissors
 - Feathers (in a variety of colors)
 - Jewels, sequins, and glitter
- Invite the children to make a pirate hat, using the given materials.
- Provide help with creating the head band which will need to be tailored for each individual child.
- Use the discussion questions on the left to help stimulate their imaginations.

Suggested Extension Activities:

- Add paper or inflatable palm trees, pirate hats, hooks, a stuffed parrot, a periscope and a cardboard boat wheel to the drama center.
- Allow children to build a pirate ship out of Lego or wooden blocks in the block center. Include some toy pirates and parrots for them to add to their ship.
- Invite the children to play 'Row the Boat' and/or 'Captain's Coming!' Please see the document *Suggested Extension Activities – Further Explanation*, located in the folder "Pirates Extension Activities"
- Bring in informational texts and storybooks for children to explore and learn more about pirates.

Lesson: 1

Letter: H

Keyword: Hat

Song/Movement Activity

The Pirate

Sing to the tune of "The Old Man"

The pirate

Has a hat

Where the skull and crossbones sat

With an *Ar, Ar, Ar*, and an *Eye Water!*

The pirate sailed on the sea.

The pirate

With a patch

Sailed the sea without a scratch!

With an *Ar, Ar, Ar*, and an *Eye Water!*

The pirate sailed on the sea.



Have the children wear their hats and march around the room doing their best pirate impressions.

Phonological Awareness Activities

Approx. Time: 15 min

Rhyme Time With Captain Ray

**Pirate Rhymes**

Read aloud the rhyming sentences and allow the children to complete the rhyme. Emphasize the rhyming words after each sentence. (Suggested answers are in parentheses but feel free to come up with any answer text.)

Lesson: 1	Letter: H	Keyword: Hat
<p>On board the ship, the pirate set, And on his head, he wore his _____ (hat)</p> <p>A pirate will never fall in a trap, If he uses his treasure _____ (map)</p> <p>Ahoy, ye pirates, climb on board, There be a fight, so bring _____ (sword)</p>	<p>The chilly pirate put on his _____ (hat) Before he found the treasure _____ (chest)</p> <p>Don't leave me for at a night nap, We don't want to catch the _____ (ship)</p> <p>Hurry, hurry, climb the mast, We need to get the _____ (spear)</p>	
<p>Initial Sounds: The pirate flag</p>		
<p>Fill a bin with sand. Bury some small "treasure" objects (anything with the target sound [h], like hammer, hat, frog, etc.) in the sand. Find a few other objects that do not begin with the target sound to act as decoys. Allow each child a turn to dig and hunt. Once a child finds an object, have him/her say the initial sound and decide whether it begins with the target sound or not.</p>		
<p>Story Time</p>	<p>Approx. Time: 10 min</p>	
<p>Captain Jack and the Flying Pirates By: David Malvern</p>		
<p>Pre-Writing Skills</p>	<p>Approx. Time: 10 min</p>	
<p>Sandpaper letters Give each child a sheet of sandpaper. Demonstrate how to correctly form the letter and allow the children to practice the shape of the letter on their sandpaper with their fingers.</p> <p>Printing practice Give each child a marker and teach or review the "Dip Dip". (See p. 21 of Instructor's Manual for detailed instructions.) Distribute letter practice/coloring pages and coloring supplies to the children. Assist children in beginning to tracing the letter shapes and then encourage them to try their own. When the letter practice page is completed, children can color the images on the coloring page.</p>		

Lesson: 2

Letter: E



Keywords: Emergent

Lesson Checklist

Code Time:

- ABC Chart
- Guess the Picture Supply

Craft:

- Small Styrofoam cup
- Yarn
- Tape
- Hot glue
- Green paint mixed with white glue
- Paintbrushes
- Glitter (green, silver and/or white)

Song/Movement Activity:

- Song lyrics
- Optional prop element

Phonics Awareness Activities:

- Clap out all the e's in the word (punched up green paper or paper bean bag)
- Rhyme time with a recently learned word

Story Time:

- Storybook
- Freewriting Skills
- Decoded text, ink, or sand
- Miniature tray
- Large sheet of coloring paper
- Coloring materials



Circle Time:

- Appreciation song
- A special song from the week
- Guess the Picture
- Picture Pictionary

Approximate Time: 30 min

Refer to p. 7 of the teacher's manual for detailed instructions of each step.

Lesson: 2

Letter: E



Keyword: Emerald

Craft

Time: 15-20 min

Styrofoam Emerald

Discussion Questions

Where do you think emeralds may be found?

What else do you think can be made from emeralds?

Who do you think might be interested in emeralds?

If you found an emerald, what would you do with it?

Would you prefer a different kind of jewel? Which one?

Do you have any jewels at home?

Craft Instructions

- Clean and disinfect the styrofoam cups and hot glue.
 - Pre-cut a hole in the bottom end of a Styrofoam cup and thread both ends of a piece of yarn through the hole so the yarn ends into a knot and tape the knot inside the cup to hold it in place. Tape or hot glue the top of another Styrofoam cup to the open end of the hole cup. Prepare an emerald form for each child.
- For the craft activity table, put out the following materials:
- Styrofoam cups mixed with white glue
 - Yarn
 - Green tissue paper (in various shades)
 - Green tissue paper (in various shades)
 - Green, yellow, blue, red, purple, pink, orange, other and/or other colors
 - Encourage children to complete the emerald by painting an emerald form and adding fabric, tissue and/or glitter
 - Ask the children to answer the discussion questions on the left to help stimulate their imaginations.

Suggested Extension Activities

- Make a collection of emeralds, diamonds, rubies, sapphires, pearls, opals, and other gemstones with beads made of paper.
- Put out a collection of emeralds for the children to sort by color, shape, etc.
- Make a collection of emeralds for the children to make jewelry (necklaces of various colors). Please see the Suggested Extension Activities - Further Exploration, located in the Letter - Frogs & Life Lesson Plan.
- Make a collection of emeralds and rubies available for children to look at closely with a magnifying glass.

Lesson: 2

Letter: E



Keyword: Emerald

Song/Movement Activity

Approx. Time: 10 min

Emerald Song

Sing to the tune of "London Bridge"

Emerald is shining bright, shining bright, shining bright.

Emerald is shining bright,

Glimmer, glimmer!

Look at how it shines for you, shines for me, shines for you.

Look at how it shines for you,

Glimmer, glimmer!

Emerald is nice and green, nice and green, nice and green.

Emerald is nice and green,

Glimmer, glimmer!



Have the children sit in a circle and sing the song to a green emerald while singing the song. At the end of each verse, the child that is holding the emerald should stand up and shout, "Wow, Shiny!"

Phonological Awareness Activities

Approx. Time: 15 min

Working with Skans the Skiff

**Say it slowly & Slow**

Read words aloud, paying careful attention to the sounds of each phoneme. Begin with compound words and progress to words with 2 phoneme words, 3 phoneme words, 4 phoneme words, and finally 2-syllable words. Once you have read the word slowly, ask each child at a time to say it fast.

An extension of this activity is to invite the class to guess the word you are reciting as you say it slowly in segments.

Lesson: 2

Letter: E



Keyword: Emerald

Initial Sounds: Eddie's Emerald Toy

Make some pretend emeralds that are suitable for young children (scrunched up green tissue paper, green bean legs, etc.) Label a few shortones with previously learned letters, including E. Cut out a word that begins with one of the sounds and have the children take turns tossing the emerald into the correct bin.



Story Time

Approx. Time: 10 min

Approx. Time: 10 min
Approx. Time: 10 min

Pre-Writing Skills

Approx. Time: 10 min

Sensory Trays

Fill one aluminum tray with crushed rice, salt, or sand for each child. Allow children to practice drawing letters in the tray with their fingers.

Tracing Practice

Give each child a piece of paper to trace or review the "Big Pig". (See p. 21 of Instructor's Manual for details on printing.) Distribute letter practice/coloring pages and coloring supplies to the children. Allow children to practice tracing the letter shapes and then encourage them to try their own. When the letter practice page is completed, children can color the images on the coloring page.

Lesson: 3

Letter: X

Keywords: X Marks
the Spot

Lesson Checklist

Core Time:

- ABC Chart
- Guess the Picture Puzzle

Craft:

- Peck treasure maps (found in the folder "Folder Supplemental Materials")
- Pre-cut treasure map clip art (found in the folder "Folder Supplemental Materials")
- Crayons, markers and/or other coloring materials
- Light-colored sheets of construction paper and/or white sheets of paper
- Child scissors
- Glue

Song/Movement Activity:

- Song lyrics

Phonological Awareness Activities:

- Phonological awareness activities, cut and glue X shapes

Story Time:

- Storybook
- Pre-writing skills
- Shaving cream
- Aluminum tray
- Paper pre-cut coloring page
- Coloring materials



Center time

Approx. Time: 30 min

- Alphabet song
- Alphabet song (sing and read)
- Guess the picture
- Picture puzzle

Refer to p. 7 of instructor's manual for detailed instructions of each step.

Lesson: 3

Letter: X

Keywords: Marks
the Spot

Craft

Topic: Treasure Maps

My Treasure Map

Discussion Questions

What do you think people need maps?

Have you or anyone you know ever used a map before?

What pictures do you think are important to include on a map?

If you found a treasure map, what would you choose to help you find the treasure?

Where do you think is a good place to hide treasure?

Craft Instructions

- To make your own treasure map, you will need the following materials:
 - Treasure map (found in the folder "Posters and Materials")
 - Treasure map clip art (found in the folder "Visual Elements/Materials")
 - Crayons, markers, and/or other coloring materials
 - Colored sheets of construction paper and/or sheets of paper
 - Scissors
 - Glue
- Invite children to create a treasure map with the materials given. They may color their map, add clip art pictures and/or drawings to it. They may create their own map images on construction paper, cut them out and glue them on their map, or draw directly on the map itself.
- Use the discussion questions on the left to help stimulate their imaginations.

Engagement Activities

- Put two treasure maps, a treasure chest, and a map to the drama center.
- Place pictures of treasure maps, map of countries, etc. in the math area.
- Put a variety of objects found on stands to become a treasure, a treasure map, a raft, a mermaid, a treasure chest, etc. as well as some found elsewhere (a car, a shop, a bed, etc.) in a treasure chest. Invite children each pull one item out of the chest and decide if it can be found on a treasure map. Alternatively, place these objects in a large tray of sand for the children to find.
- Add sand to the sand table and allow the children to make sand castles.

Lesson: 3

Letter: X

Keyword: X Marks
the Spot

Song/Movement Activity

Approx. time: 5 min

Pirate Pete*Sung to the tune of "B-I-N-G-O"*

Pirate Pete, he had a bird
 And Bingo was his name-oh!
 B-I-N-G-O!
 B-I-N-G-O!
 B-I-N-G-O!
 And Bingo was his name-oh!

Pirate Pete, he had a bird
 And Bingo was his name-oh!
 (clap)-I-N-G-O!
 (clap)-I-N-G-O!
 (clap)-I-N-G-O!
 And Bingo was his name-oh!



For each verse, delete one more letter and replace with a clap until all letters in 'BINGO' are clapped.

Phonological Awareness Activities

Approx. Time: 15 min

Alliteration with Mischievous Mack**Shimmy Shake**

Have the children stand in a circle. Instruct the children to "shimmy shake" when they hear a pair of matching beginning word sounds. For example, you might call out the following word pairs: "silly turtle," "nice dog" and "crazy cow." When the children hear the alliteration in "crazy cow," they all shake and shimmy.

Lesson: 3

Letter: X

Keyword: X Marks
the Spot**Initial Sounds: X Marks the Spot Tic Tac Toe**

Play a game of Tic Tac Toe using only Xs. To play, cut two sets of Xs out of construction paper in two different colors. Divide the children into two teams, and explain that each team should try to make 3 Xs in a row. Use masking tape to make a giant Tic Tac Toe board on the floor. You can also use colored floor mat puzzles arranged in a 3X3 grid. Let one child from one team place an X in a square and call out a word containing the /x/ sound. Suggest that they choose words that have X in the middle or at the end since there are few words that begin with the /x/ sound. Next, let a child from the other team place the other colored X on the board. Continue alternating turns until one team gets three in a row.

Story Time

Approx. Time: 10 min

The Fantastic Floating Feast
By: Danielle Van Bakel

Pre-Writing Skills

Approx. Time: 10 min

Shaving Cream Letters

Give each child a squirt of shaving cream in the shape of the designated letter and invite them to spread it around with their hands. Have children practice making letters in the foam created. Squirt directly onto table or into aluminum trays.

Printing Practice

Give each child a marker and teach or review the "Grip Flip". (See p. 21 of Instructor's Manual for detailed instructions.) Distribute letter practice/coloring pages and coloring supplies to the children. Assist children as necessary in tracing the letter shapes and then encourage them to try their own. When the letter practice page is completed, children can color the images on the coloring page.

Lesson: 4

Letter: V

Keyword: Volcano

Craft

Time: 20-30 min

Vibrant Volcano

Discussion Questions

What do you think a volcano erupts?

What do you think comes out of a volcano?

Do you think any animals live on or in volcanoes?

Would you be interested in visiting a volcano?

How would you feel if you witnessed a volcano that was about to erupt?

Craft Instructions

- In the center of the volcano, add the following materials:
 - Glue and/or any Cloud Clay
 - Playdoh sticks
 - Construction paper
 - Any variety of colors
 - Scissors
 - Take your time to add the colors of fire and smoke to your volcano.
 - Use the discussion questions on the left to help stimulate their imaginations.
- Students may use the Cloud Clay to sculpt a volcano on a cardboard base. They may create ridges on its surface using the playdoh sticks before painting the volcano. They may further add fire and smoke by taping strips of white paper to the inside of the volcano's hole, as well as add trees (may be made of Cloud Clay) to the top.

Suggested Extension Activities

- For activities to be used in the classroom:
- Add any materials necessary to the craft area. Pictures can be found in the folder: [Picture Extension Activities](#).
- Challenge students to make a volcano as a class. Please see the document [Suggested Extension Activities: Number Stations](#) located in the folder: [Picture Extension Activities](#).
- Challenge students to make triangular shaped towers with blocks.

Lesson: 4

Letter: V

Keyword: Volcano

Song/Movement Activity

Approx. Time: 10 min

I'm a Big Volcano

Sing to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot"

I'm a big volcano
Tall and round
I've got a hole
Down to the ground

When I get too hot
My necker BLOW!
Down my side
The lava will flow



Have the children stand with their legs spread apart to look like a volcano. Crouch down to the ground when you sing the last line of the first verse. When you sing, "My necker BLOW!" jump up and crouch the word BLOW! Shake your head and arms in a circular motion to mimic lava flowing as you sing the final lines.

Phonological Awareness Activities

Approx. Time: 25 min

Segmenting with the Splitter Critter**Syllable Treasure Chest**

Decorate a cardboard box like a treasure chest and cut a hole out of the lid. Find a variety of objects that begin with the letter or three objects and place in the treasure chest. Have children take turns reaching into the treasure chest and pulling an object. After each turn, have the child call out the name of the object. Repeat the name of the object and get the whole class to help clap the syllables to determine the number of syllables in the name of the object.

Lesson: 4

Letter: V

Keyword: Volcano

Initial Sounds: Musical Islands

Place recently learned from letters in loops spread out in a circle. Play music (groove music, for example) and have the children parade or march from island to island. When the music stops, children must move to the chosen letter and stand on it. Go around the circle and ask children to tell you the name and sound of the letter and give a word that starts with that sound. If time does not permit, ask a child to go, ask a few each time the music stops, ensuring you ask each child at least once during the game.

Story Time

Approx. Time: 10 min

The Sprinkler and the Grumpy Troll
By: Andrew Ross

Pre-Writing Skills

Approx. Time: 10 min

Bingo Dabbers

Lay out sheets of chart paper for the children. Have children practice making the shape of letters using bingo dabbers as markers. Once they are confident, make the letter shapes in pencil and have the children trace over them with the dabbers.

Printing Practice

Give each child a marker and watch or review the "Big Pig". (See p. 21 of Instructor's Manual for details.) Distribute other practicing/learning pages and coloring supplies to the children. Ask children to demonstrate to you the letter shapes and then encourage them to try their own. When the letter practice is completed, children can color the images on the coloring page.

Lesson: 5

Letter: T

Keyword: Treasure

Lesson Checklist

Circle Time:

- ABC Chart
- Guess the Picture Supplier

Craft:

- Small unfinished wooden totes (1 per child)
- Glue/paint in a variety of colors (including primary colors so children can make their own)
- Paintbrushes
- Jewels
- Glitter
- Strips of gold, silver and/or black paper
- Extra sheets of construction paper
- Child scissors
- Felt markers

Song/Movement Activity:

- Song totes

Phonics and Awareness Activities:

- Cut out letters further cut out from letter totes, construction cardboard and gold paint
- Letter signs for visually impaired letters

Story Time:

- Playbook
- Reading Skills
- Play dough or Playdoh
- Letter practice/coloring paper
- Writing materials



Circle Time:

Name: _____ Time: 10 min

- Alphabet song
- Alphabet song (over and over)
- Guess the Picture
- Picture _____

Refer to p. 7 of instructor's manual for detailed instructions of each step.

Lesson: 5

Letter: T

Keyword: Treasure

Song/Movement Activity

We're Going on a Treasure Hunt

Sing to the tune of "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" (Children repeat lines in brackets)

We're going on a treasure hunt (We're going on a treasure hunt)

Gonna find some jewels (Gonna find some jewels)

Ahey that map! (Ahey that map!)

Follow the map (Follow the map)

[March around pretending to look at a map]

We're going on a treasure hunt (We're going on a treasure hunt)

Gonna find some jewels (Gonna find some jewels)

Ahey that map! (Ahey that map!)

Let's dig here (Let's dig here)

[pretend to dig in the sand]

We're going on a treasure hunt (We're going on a treasure hunt)

Gonna find some jewels (Gonna find some jewels)

Ahey that map! (Ahey that map!)

I think I found something! (I think I found something!)

[pretend to pull up an object]

We're going on a treasure hunt (We're going on a treasure hunt)

Gonna find some jewels (Gonna find some jewels)

Ahey that map! (Ahey that map!)

Open the chest (Open the chest)

[pretend to pry open the chest]

We're going on a treasure hunt (We're going on a treasure hunt)

Gonna find some jewels (Gonna find some jewels)

We did it! (We did it!)

The treasure is ours! (The treasure is ours!)

[pretend to hold up treasure]



Lesson: 5

Letter: T

Keyword: Treasure

Phonological Awareness Activities

Sound Manipulation with Switch-a-Roo



This Song's All Wrong

Have the class sit in a circle. Sing the lyrics to popular songs, but change the first sound of the key words in the song to a designated sound. Give the children the opportunity to guess the song and a letter sound. For example, you might sing "Row, row, row your boat" as:

Row, row, row your boat
Rowly rowly the beam
Rowly, rowly, rowly, rowly
Row a row a beam

Initial Sounds: Copper Coins

Hide copper coins with recently learned letters on them. Coins can be purchased from dollar store or made out of cardboard and painted. Hide a coin for each letter and place them on the carpet. Allow the children to hunt for coins, searching for "treasure." When they find one, they should return it to the carpet and match it to the corresponding sign. Have the children say the sound of the letter as they put it on the sign.

Story Time

Approx. Time: 10 min

The Green Field Race
By Jennifer Holmbeck

Lesson: 5

Letter: T

Keyword: Treasure

Pre-Writing Skills

Approx. Time: 10 min

Sculpting Letters

Give each child a chunk of play dough or Plasticine. Show the children how to roll the dough into strips ("snakes") and use those strips to form letters.

Printing Practice

Give each child a marker and teach or review the "Grip Flip". (See p. 21 of Instructor's Manual for detailed instructions.) Distribute letter practice/coloring pages and coloring supplies to the children. Assist children as necessary in tracing the letter shapes and then encourage them to try their own. When the letter practice page is completed, children can color the images on the coloring page.

