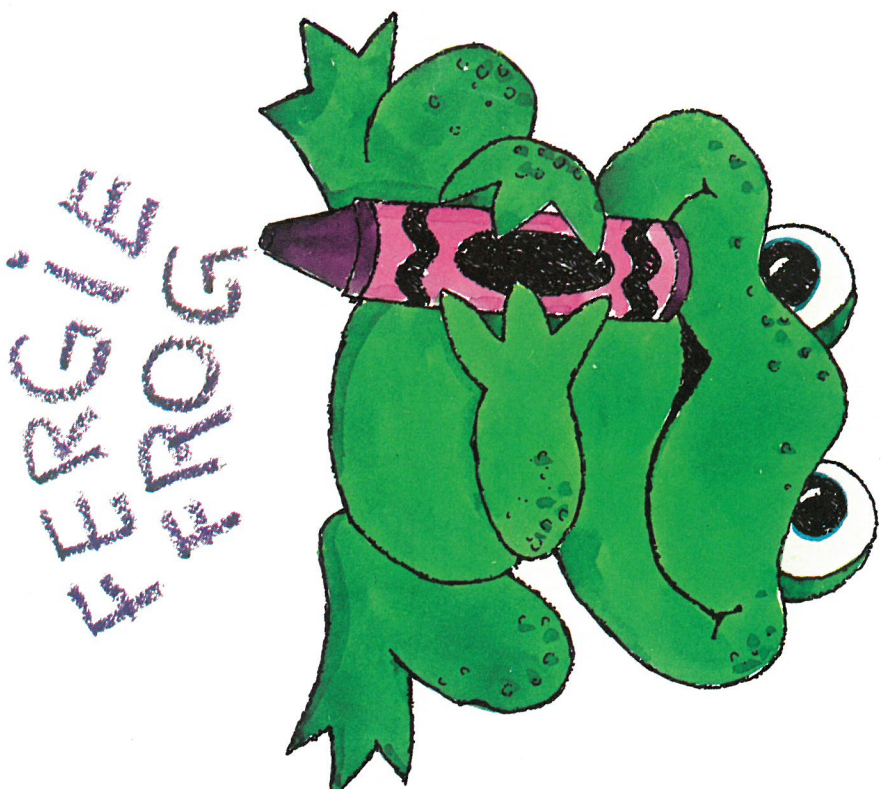


# Letter Skills



Macmillan Early Skills Program

This activity helps children learn how to alphabetize words correctly.

**You need:** old magazines

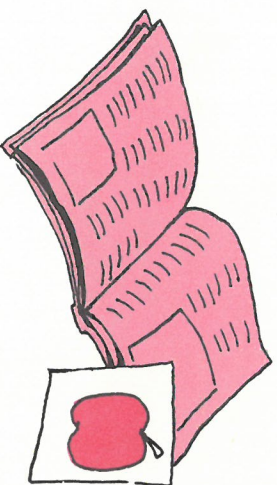
scissors

glue

9" × 12" oaktag

black marker

stapler



**Steps:**

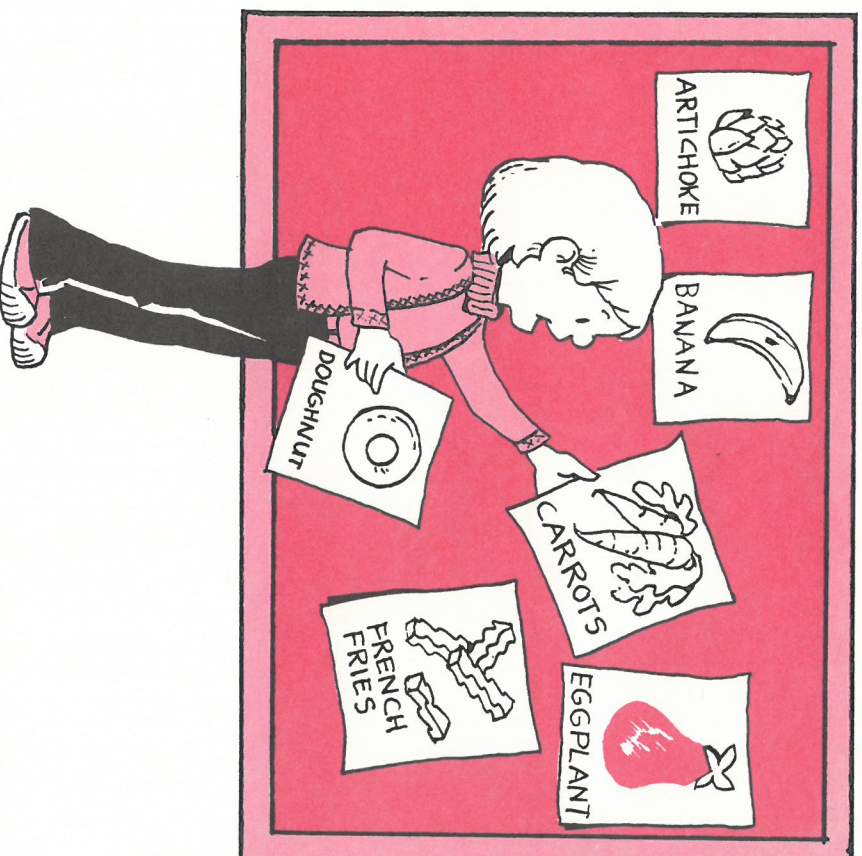
1. Have children look through old magazines to find pictures of different kinds of foods.
2. Children will cut out the food pictures and glue them onto 9" × 12" oaktag.
3. With a black marker, the teacher labels each picture with the correct food name.
4. Staple the food pictures randomly to a bulletin board.
5. Ask children to copy the names of the foods in alphabetical order (ABC order).

**Variation:**

Laminate the food pictures and set up a Food Center. Children may take turns organizing the pictures in alphabetical order.

**Follow-up Activities:**

1. The Four Food Groups—Make a worksheet for the children and write the names of the four food groups at the top of the page. Reproduce the page for each child and have children copy the names of the food pictures on the bulletin board in the correct column. (You might want to include a "Junk Food" group on the sheet.)
2. Ask each child to make a list of the pictured foods he or she likes and those he or she dislikes. Make a class chart to reflect the children's likes and dislikes.



MILK	MEATS	FRUITS + VEGETABLES	BREADS + CEREALS	JUNK FOOD
CHEESE	STEAK	CARROTS	RICE	CANDY
	HAM	PEARS	POTATO	BAR

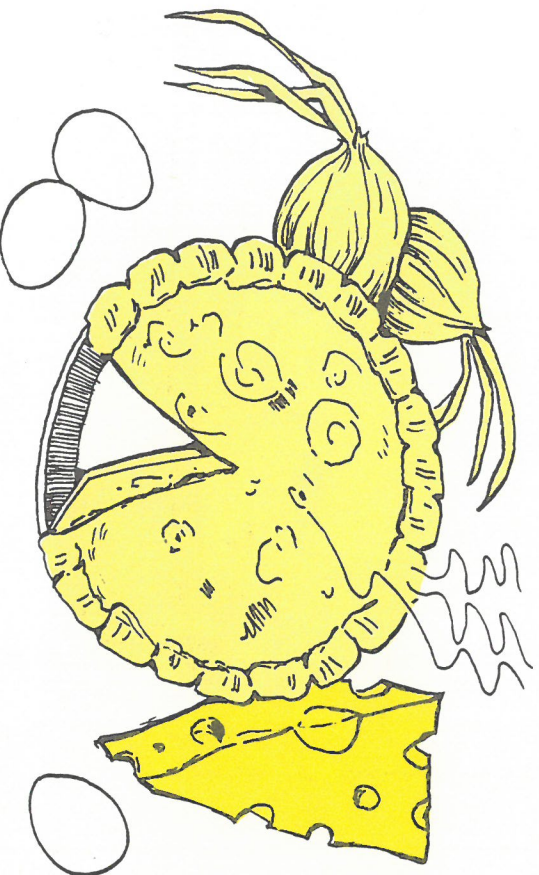


# ALPHABET SNACKS

## Treats for the Classroom / Recipes

A delightful diversion from regular classroom activities, alphabet snacks add zest to any beginning-sound study. Here are some suggestions for foods as you study each letter of the alphabet.

- A—apples, apricots
- B—bananas, bread and butter, butterscotch
- C—carrots, cupcakes, cookies
- D—doughnuts, dip (for vegetables or crackers)
- E—egg salad, hard-boiled eggs, English muffins
- F—fruit, figs
- G—grapes, graham crackers, gumdrops
- H—honey butter (see recipe on page 34), honeydew melon
- I—ice-cream bars, ice-cream sandwiches
- J—juice, jam, jelly
- K—kielbasa, kale
- L—licorice, lemonade
- M—marshmallows, milk, melba toast
- N—nuts, nectarines
- O—oranges, oatmeal cookies



- P—pineapple, popcorn, pickles
- Q—quiche (see recipe below), quick drink (instant fruit punch)
- R—raisins, raspberries
- S—strawberries, sandwiches, sunflower seeds
- T—tomatoes, tuna fish, taffy
- U—upside-down cake (see recipe on page 34)
- V—vegetables, vanilla pudding, vanilla wafers
- W—walnuts, watermelon
- X—X-tra Special Treats (see recipe on page 34)
- Y—yogurt, yams
- Z—zucchini, zwieback toast

## QUICHE

**Ingredients:** 1 frozen, unbaked pie shell  
1 medium-sized onion  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
4 eggs  
½ lb. Swiss cheese

### How to Make:

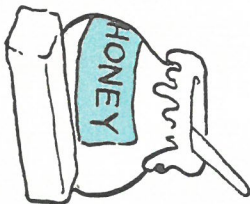
1. Preheat oven to 400°.
2. Bake the frozen pie shell at 400° for ten minutes. Remove from the oven.
3. Chop and sauté the onion in the oil.
4. Beat the eggs.
5. Grate the Swiss cheese.
6. Place onions in the bottom of the pie shell; then pour the eggs over the onions.
7. Sprinkle the grated cheese over the eggs. Bake at 400° for 45 minutes.
8. Cut into 12 wedges. Then cut each wedge in half. (Makes 24 small servings.)

## HONEY BUTTER

**Ingredients:** 1 cup honey  
8-oz. container of whipped butter

**How to Make:**

1. Mix the honey and whipped butter together in a large bowl.
2. Chill. Serve on bread or toast. (Makes 25–30 servings.)



## UPSIDE-DOWN CAKE

**Ingredients:** 1 stick butter or margarine  
1 cup brown sugar, tightly packed  
29-oz. can of sliced peaches, drained  
1 package yellow cake mix

**How to Make:**

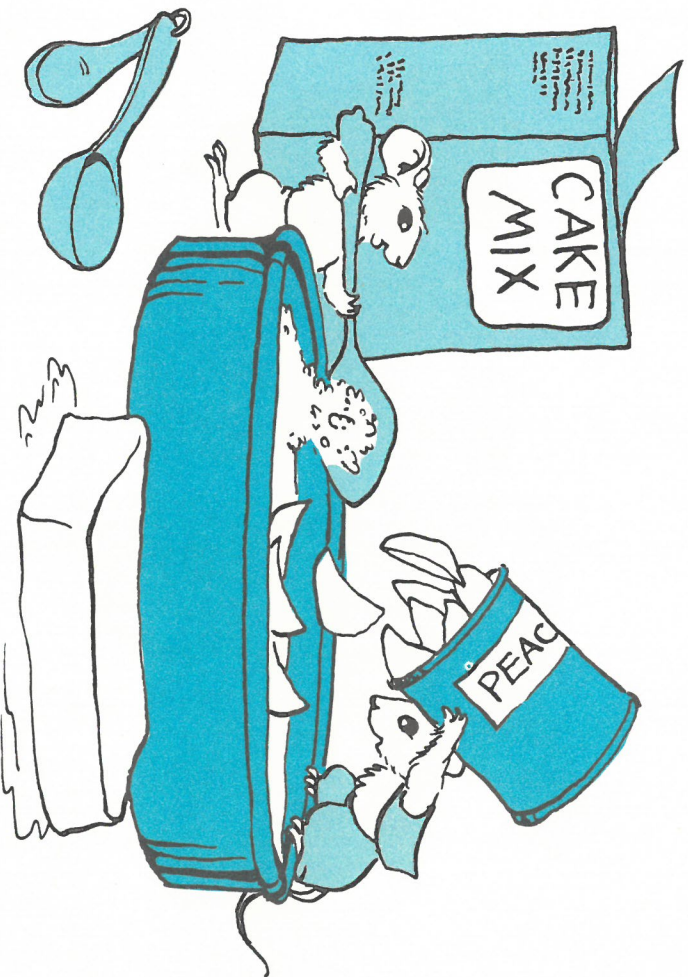
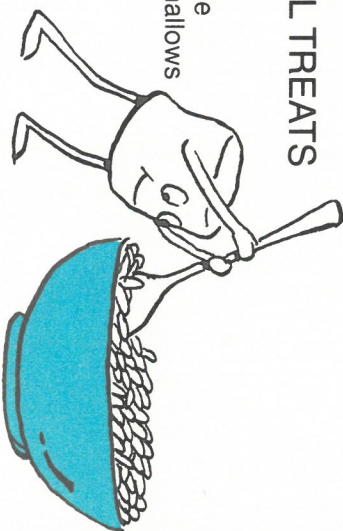
1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Melt the butter or margarine in the bottom of a 9" × 13" cake pan.
3. Sprinkle brown sugar over the butter.
4. Place the peach slices on top of the sugar.
5. Prepare the cake mix. Pour the batter over the peaches.
6. Bake for approximately 50 minutes.
7. Let cool for about 30 minutes. To invert the cake, place a large cookie sheet over the cake pan. Then, holding the cookie sheet firmly against the pan, turn over the pan so that the cake rests on the cookie sheet. (Makes 24–30 servings.)

## X-TRA SPECIAL TREATS

**Ingredients:** ¼ cup butter or margarine  
one 4-oz. bag of marshmallows  
1 cup peanut butter  
6 cups rice cereal

**How to Make:**

1. Melt butter or margarine in a saucepan over medium heat.
2. Add marshmallows and peanut butter, stirring until all marshmallows have melted.
3. Add the rice cereal. Mix well.
4. Press mixture into a greased 9" × 13" pan.
5. Refrigerate. Then cut into bars and serve. (Makes 24 bars.)



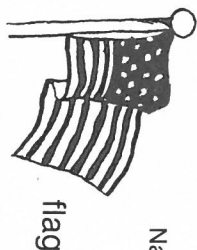


# CLASSIFICATION GRAPH

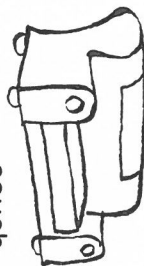
Worksheet

Look at the words and pictures around the graph.  
Write each word in the column where it belongs.  
You may write the same word in both columns.  
Then answer the questions below.

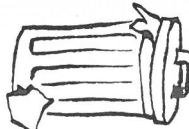
Name \_\_\_\_\_



flag



couch



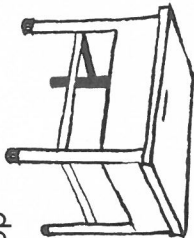
trash



clock



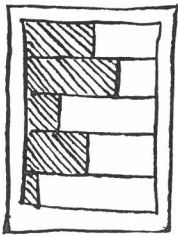
dish



desk



shoe



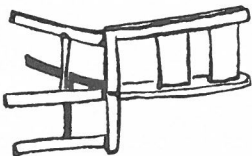
chart



sock



chalk



chair

THINGS AT HOME	THINGS AT SCHOOL

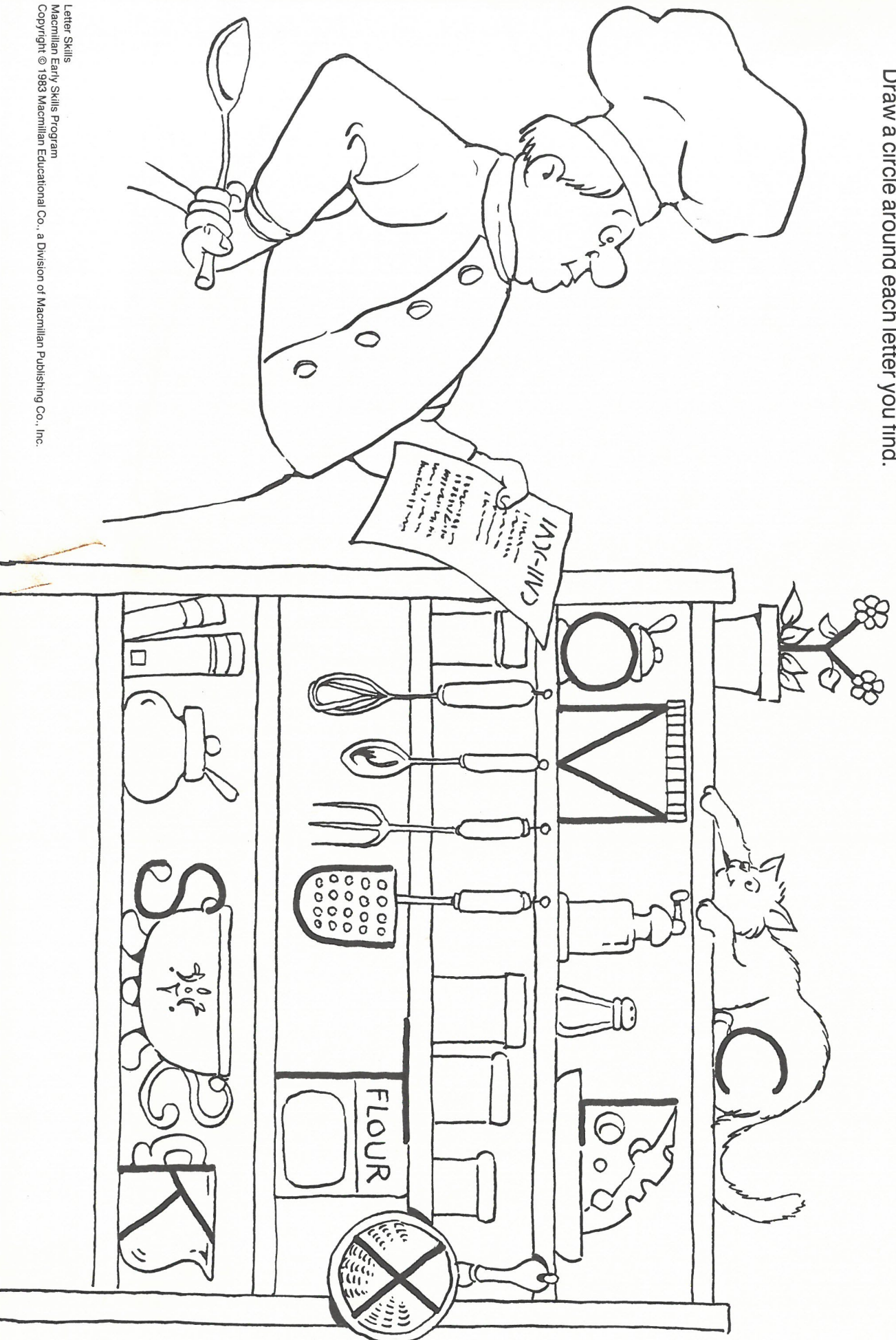
How many words end with sh? \_\_\_\_\_

How many words end with ch? \_\_\_\_\_

How many words begin with ch? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Look at the picture.  
 Find these letters hidden in the shelves: K, L, U, X, Y, C, M, O, S, T.  
 Draw a circle around each letter you find.





# LONG-VOWEL GARDEN

Science Activity

This activity will reinforce the long vowel sounds and help children learn about growing plants.

**You need:** five empty 2-lb. coffee cans with lids

hammer and nails

scissors

9" x 12" construction paper

transparent tape

marker

potting soil

five varieties of seeds:

kale (ā)

pea (ē)

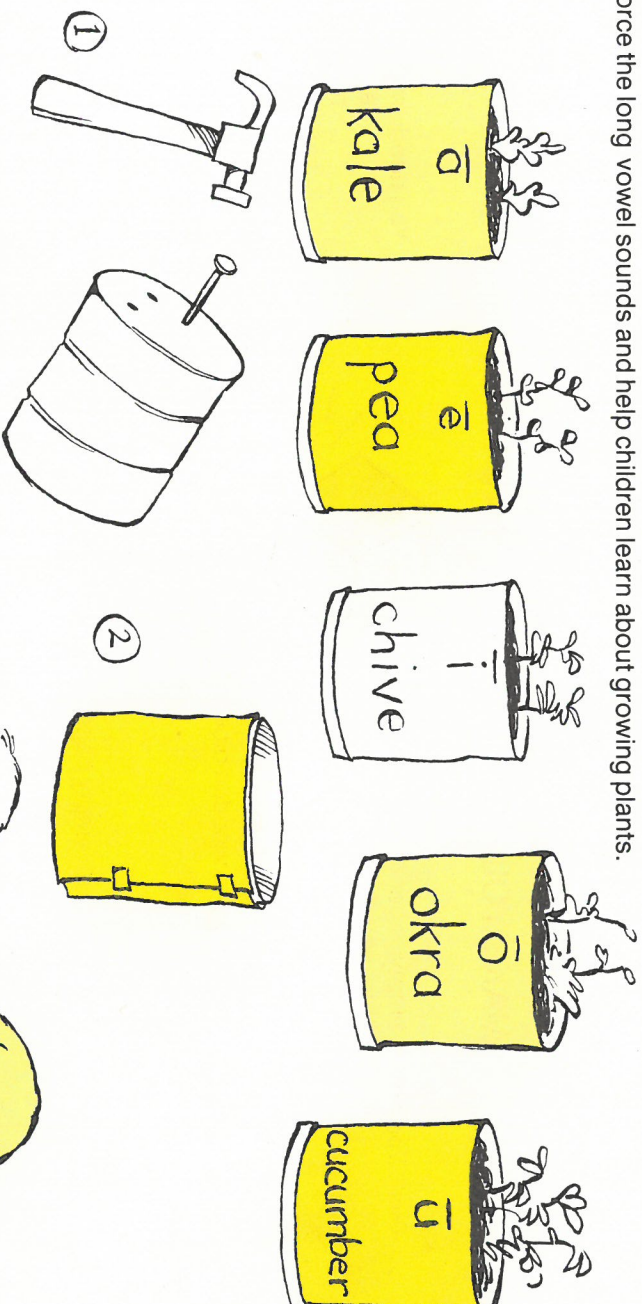
chive (ī)

okra (ō)

cucumber (ū)

## Steps:

1. With a hammer and nails, punch several holes in the bottom of each coffee can. Remove nails.
2. Cut out large rectangles from construction paper and wind them around the coffee cans. Tape in place.
3. With a marker, label each can with a different long vowel sound and the name of the corresponding type of seed.
4. Fit a lid on the bottom of each coffee can.
5. Divide the class into five groups and assign a long-vowel vegetable to each group.
6. Help children fill the coffee cans with potting soil. The top of the soil should be 1½" from the rim of the coffee can.
7. Assist the children with planting the seeds, following the instructions on the seed packets.
8. Each group of children is responsible for watering the seeds in their long-vowel coffee cans. Stress that the *first* vowel sound children hear in the plant's name is the only vowel sound that counts in this activity.
9. Have a contest to see which group's seeds sprout first.



## Variation:

To grow a short-vowel garden, plant the following seeds: radish (ă), lettuce (ĕ), chicory (ĭ), broccoli (ô), Brussel sprouts (Û). Again, remind children that the first vowel sound in the plant's name is the *only* sound that counts.

## Follow-up Activity:

Discuss the things that every growing plant needs in order to survive: light, water, air. How are they like our human needs? How are they different? What role does the sun play in plant growth?



# Letter Skills Letter Recognition and Alphabetical Order

## LOTS OF LETTERS

### Art Activity

This activity gives children practice in recognizing the different letters of the alphabet.

**You need:** 12" x 18" white construction paper

scissors  
old magazines (one for each child)  
glue  
thumbtacks

#### Steps:

1. Choose a letter of the alphabet and draw a giant version of it on 12" x 18" white construction paper. Cut out the letter.
2. Give each child an old magazine. Children will look through their magazines to find as many examples as possible of the particular letter.
3. Have children cut out the letters and glue them onto the giant letter.
4. Tack the letter onto a bulletin board.

#### Variations:

1. As children become more familiar with the alphabet, this activity can be modified: Have children cut out pictures of objects beginning with the specific letter and glue the pictures onto the giant letter.
2. When studying vowel sounds, have your class make a bulletin board display of the letters A, E, I, O, U, and Y.

