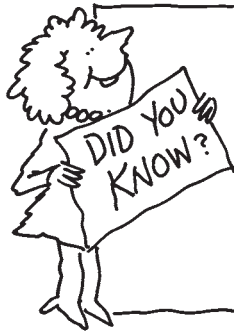


Rebecca Sitton's APPLESEED



PLANT THE SEEDS TO GROW SPELLING AND WORD-SKILL LITERACY.

Phonics for Primary Wordsmiths (the letters *ch*)



Nearly 75% of the time, *c* spells /k/. When *c* is followed by *h*, *c* spells a new sound, /ch/. This sound is most often spelled with the letters *ch*, but not always—picture, catch, question. Students may discover that *ch* can spell other sounds too, albeit infrequently in primary vocabulary—/k/ as in *school*, /sh/ as in *machine*.

Write the month *March* on the chalkboard. Ask students to read the word. Then pronounce the word and ask students to listen for the sound they hear at the end of *March*. Underline *ch*. The combination of two letters that spell one sound is called a *digraph*. The letter *h* creates a digraph when it follows *c*, *p*, *s*, *t*, or *w*.

Brainstorm for words that contain the *ch* digraph, the sound heard at the end of the month of *March*. Encourage students to collect words that begin with /ch/, have /ch/ in the middle, or end with /ch/. Sort the words by the position of /ch/. Write these words on a chart.

ch makes the sound we hear at the end of March

<u>beginning</u>	<u>middle</u>	<u>end</u>
chair	searching	peach
change	teacher	touch
check	inches	reach
child	Mrs. Richards	which
choose		lunch
		rich

Students can add words to the chart over time as they discover more. Provide small sticky notes on which students can write their words. Then students stick the sticky notes to the *ch* chart in the proper column. Later, you can add their words to the chart with a marker.



Phonics for Primary Wordsmiths (the letters *ch*) (continued)

Extend the chart activities—

- 🍇 Ask students to read the words.
- 🍇 Have students write sentences using two of the words in the same sentence.
- 🍇 Which words can be nouns...verbs...adjectives?
- 🍇 Select one /ch/ word and make a new set of related words (chair: table, sofa, bed, dresser).
- 🍇 Add suffixes to selected words. Remove the suffix from words that already have a suffix.
- 🍇 Which words have long vowel sounds...short vowel sounds?
- 🍇 Sort the words by the number of syllables.
- 🍇 Write a word that rhymes with selected words on the chart.
- 🍇 Discuss the *tch* spelling for /ch/. Identify words in which /ch/ is spelled *tch*.
- 🍇 Write chart words in sentences with a color word...number word...a classmate's name.
- 🍇 Ask students to write clues for chart words for their classmates to identify (It's a fruit: *peach*. Rhymes with bear: *chair*).
- 🍇 Play this word game! Begin with a word from the chart. Play as singles, doubles, or in teams! Here, *chair* starts the game. Then students find and write words that begin with each letter. Correctly spelled words for each letter earn one point. Time the game—on your mark, get set, go!

C—cat, came, chin, cent, could, clock

H—hot, high, hole, hand, hour, happy

A—at, as, ate, are, above, after, Andy

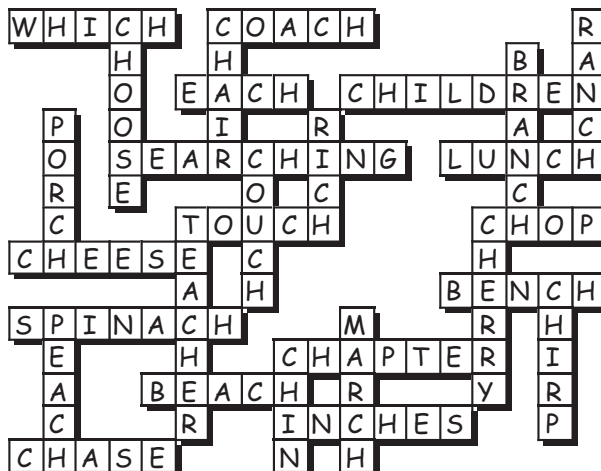
I—is, it, in, if, into, I, it's, ice

R—race, run, rat, rose, read, round

Then have students sort each set of words by the sound the first letter spells. For example, for the letter *c*, students would place *cent*, *chin*, and *cat* in different groups.

At another time, play this game with words that end with the letter of the game word. Some more capable students may enjoy playing the game with words that have the game word's letters in the middle!

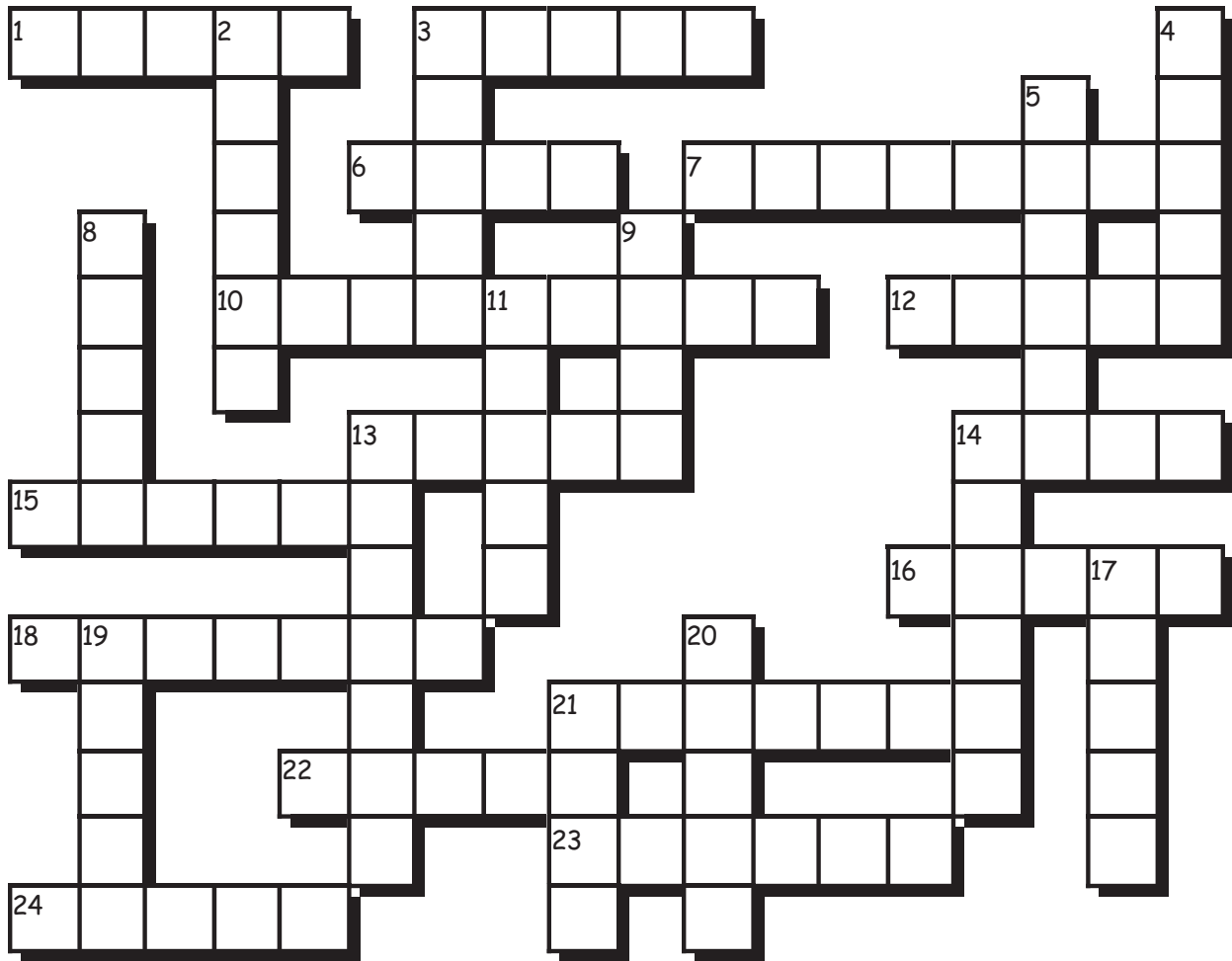
Now, for a crossword puzzle with words that contain the *ch* digraph that spells /ch/!



Name _____



Hear ch as in the month of March



ACROSS

1. I like this one. _____ one do you like?
3. person who trains the team
6. every one
7. opposite of adults
10. looking for
12. noontime meal
13. feel, pat, stroke
14. cut something into pieces
15. find this on pizza
16. sit on this in a park

18. leafy green vegetable
Popeye eats

21. section of a book
22. sandy area by the ocean
23. one foot equals twelve _____
24. to try to catch somebody

DOWN

2. homophone for chews
3. a seat with four legs, usually for one person
4. large farm where animals are raised

5. part of a tree
8. covered area by the front door of a house
9. opposite of poor
11. another word for sofa
13. classroom leader
14. small red fruit with a pit
17. sound a bird makes
19. fuzzy, pale orange fruit
20. the month before April
21. the part of your face below your mouth