



# Story Star Countdown

**Theme: Whales**

**Phonics Focus: WH**

**READ: *Zack and the Whale* by Kathleen Corrigan**

Have your child read aloud to you, reading the words they can while you help with challenging new words. Encourage them to solve unfamiliar words using the patterns they know, as well as use the pictures for more detail. Learning to read is all about building your toolkit of known words and sounds!

**Extension Activity:**

Work through the included activities at your child's pace. They should be challenged, but not frustrated, and these activities do not need to be done in one sitting. Directions are included for each activity. If your child has trouble, that's okay! You can help them, just try not to give them the answer. They should be doing most of the work.

**READ: *Onna in the Arctic* by Kelly Dipucchio**

Read this book to your child. If able, let them read to you, or take turns. Along the way, talk with your child about what is happening and how they feel about the story. Ask questions like: why do you think the character did that? How would you solve this problem? What is the story trying to teach us? What was your favorite part of the story? All questions are good questions.

**WRITE and DRAW: What would you do if you were as large as a whale?**

You can use notebook paper or the writing templates provided on our website. As your child writes, let them get their full thought down on paper before you correct anything. This is how they become a writer! As they spell, encourage them to use the rules they know. This is called invented spelling. Even if it doesn't look like what an adult would write, they are still practicing their phonics. Illustrations are always welcome!

why when whip which whale white wheel

wh

Name

y

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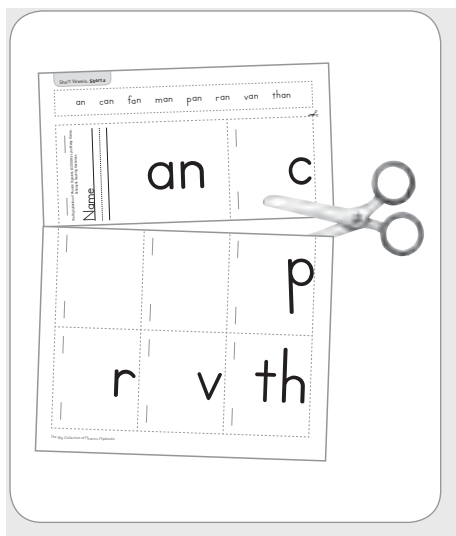
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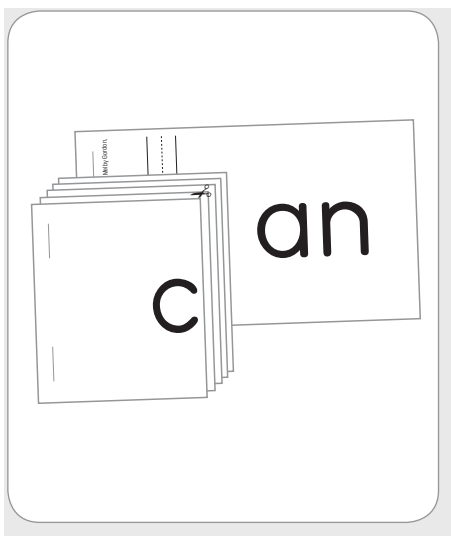
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# How to Construct the Flipbook

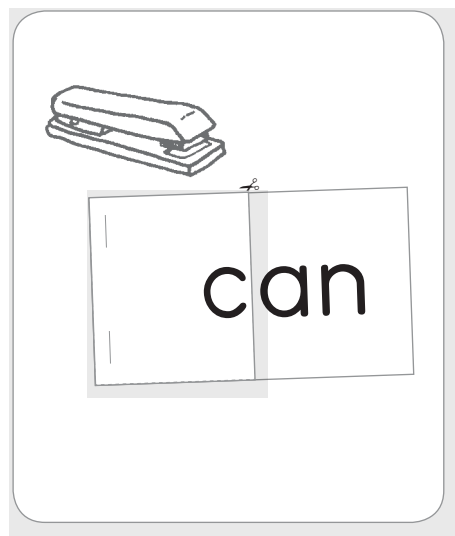
1. Carefully cut apart the flipbook pages.



2. Stack the pages.



3. Staple the pages together, then read!



# wh

Name \_\_\_\_\_

whale wheat wheel whisk whistle white

Trace each word.



whisk

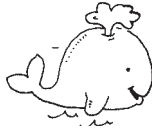


white

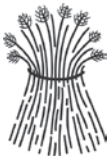
Write each word. Use words from the box above.



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

Circle each **wh** word. (Hint: There are 6.)

w	g	m	w	h	e	a	t	q	w
h	f	w	d	c	b	n	u	y	h
e	x	h	o	w	h	i	t	e	i
e	r	a	p	n	u	z	g	c	s
l	b	l	j	r	f	m	o	d	k
k	v	e	w	h	i	s	t	l	e



# How to Use this Activity Page

Completing this Write-N-Seek activity page is as easy as 1, 2, 3! Print and distribute copies of the page. Point out the target skill at the top of the page. Then have children:

- 1 Trace each word.
- 2 Write each word. (Use words from the box.)
- 3 Find and circle each word in the word-search puzzle. (Each word appears once.)

**Tip:** All the target words in the puzzle go from left to right (→) or top to bottom (↓).

**i** Name Kelly

bib fish lid pig ring six

1 Trace each word.

fish ring

Write each word. Use words from the box above.

bib pig

2 lid six

3 Circle each i word. (Hint: There are 6.)

k r a f e h q s i x  
s i v b c t o l m n  
o n w i j a p i g r  
t g x b u l y b c d  
y m r e q i w t p k  
j f i s h d z v u o

## Teaching Tips

Use these tips to help children get the most from this activity page.

- **Provide a model:** Demonstrate, step by step, how to complete the activity page.
- **Focus on the target words:** Have children read aloud each of the target words and finger-write them in the air.
- **Promote visual skills:** Have children look carefully for each target word in the word-search puzzle. As they complete the activity, encourage them to note how each word is spelled as they find it in the puzzle.

## Connections to the Standards

### Print Concepts

Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print.

### Phonological Awareness

Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds.

### Phonics and Word Recognition

Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

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## LEARNING CENTERS

Make this activity page self-checking when using it in a learning center. To create an answer key, simply complete the page, drawing a bold circle around each target word in the word-search puzzle. Then tape the completed page to the back of a file folder and place copies of the activity page inside the folder. Have children complete the page and then use the answer key to check their work.

## Answers

wh

w	g	m	w	h	e	a	t	q	w
h	f	w	d	c	b	n	u	y	h
e	x	h	o	w	h	i	t	e	i
e	r	a	p	n	u	z	g	c	s
l	b	l	j	r	f	m	o	d	k
k	v	e	w	h	i	s	t	l	e