

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

To build common words in a given category from syllables.

CURRICULUM LINKS

NLS: Y5, T3, Word level 3; Y6, T1, Word level 3.

Syllable scramble

What you need

Pieces of card measuring 5cm square; blue, red and black pens; six envelopes.

What to do

- Write one of the following headings on each of the six envelopes:



- 1) Creatures: two syllables
- 2) Creatures: three syllables
- 3) Countries: two syllables
- 4) Countries: three syllables
- 5) Fruit and vegetables: two syllables
- 6) Fruit and vegetables: three syllables

- Now make up some sets of syllable cards. Write the initial syllable in blue pen, the second syllable in red pen and third syllables, where applicable, in black pen.

- Trim the card so that syllables will fit together without spaces to form words.

Creatures

zeb ger
ti key
liz affe
mon ra
gir ard

Countries

Eng and
Nor ia
Holl key
Tur land
Russ way

Fruit and vegetables

ap bage
car ry
or ple
cab rot
cher ange

oc e ope
el o zee
kan tel phant
chim to dile
croc gar pus
an pan oo

Ger em land
Por al y
Lux ad y
It tu bourg
Switz man a
Can er gal

pot i choke
tom at ine
on ti o
cu ger to
ar cum on
tan a ber

- Place each set in the relevant envelope.
- Choose one set of cards and lay them out on the table in the arrangement above.
- Invite two or three children to sort out the syllables into words. Explain that all of the words will be names of creatures, for example, and point out that the colour-coding will help them to build the syllables in the correct order.
- Work through each set of cards in the same way.

Differentiation

For younger and less able children, use the two-syllable words only and provide a checklist of correct words. Do not specify the category of words for older and more able children. Simply spread the syllables on the table without ordering them at all. Challenge the children to work out the significance of the different colours.