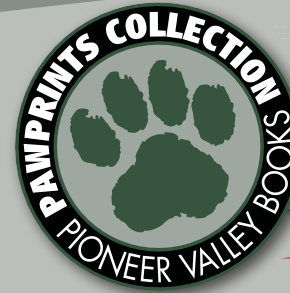




TITLE: WHERE ARE THE HAMSTERS?
LEVEL: A



INTRODUCE THE BOOK

Before students begin to read, make them familiar with the important ideas, plot, new language structures, and new words in the book. Prepare them for a successful first reading of the story. You might say:

- "This book is about places you might look for a hamster."
- "Turn to pages 2 and 3. Where is the hamster? Yes, *Look in the cup*. Repeat that with me: *Look in the cup*."
- "Now turn to pages 6 and 7 to see another place to look for a hamster. *Look in the basket*. Say *Look*. What letter comes at the beginning of *Look*? Yes, *L*. Find *Look* and put your finger under it. Say *Look*."
- "Now turn to page 12. On this page it says, *Look in my hand*. Say that with me: *Look in my hand*."
- "Turn back to the beginning and read about where to look for the hamsters." (If necessary, read the first page together.)

READ THE STORY

Encourage each student to read the entire book in a soft reading voice. Listen to students' reading and prompt for and/or praise strategic processing. Refer to the Level A Prompting Guide for a list of desired reading behaviors and suggested actions to take.

DISCUSS THE STORY

Invite students to talk about the story. Encourage students to make connections to their own experiences and/or other stories they have read. Below are some discussion ideas.

- Hamsters are very small and can hide in many small places.
- Invite students to talk about other small pets and where they might hide.


FOLLOW-UP TEACHING

Based on your observations of the students' reading, select one or two teaching points that will be most helpful to all of the students. You might:

- Have the students locate the word *Look*. Have them make the word *Look* with magnetic letters and/or write the word on paper, a magnetic dry erase easel, or in a sand tray.
- You may want to call students' attention to the word *my* on page 12. Have them find the word *my*. Have them write the word *my*.



You Will Need:

- Chart paper or chalkboard
-  Picture cards (ball, basket, bird, box, bus, cup, duck, house, jar, mitten)

EXTEND KNOWLEDGE OF WORDS AND LETTERS

In this lesson students will be saying words slowly to hear the beginning sounds. They will match pictures to the letter b.

Steps:

The  icon indicates that some of the resources needed to complete these steps are available for downloading at pioneervalleybooks.com/pawprints.

1. Explain to the students that they are going to learn about the beginning sounds in words.
2. Make a large circle on the chalkboard or on chart paper on an easel. Write an uppercase *B* and a lowercase *b* in the circle.
3. Have the students say the word *ball* slowly and think about the sound at the beginning of the word. Say "Look at my mouth and listen as I say the word." Say the word *ball* slowly. "What do you hear at the beginning of *ball*? That's right it's *b*." Tape the picture of the ball in the circle.
4. Have the students say the word *bird* slowly. "Look at my mouth and listen as I say the word." Say the word *bird* slowly. "What do you hear at the beginning of *bird*? That's right, it is *b*."
5. Tape the picture of the bird into the circle.
6. Have the students say all of the words slowly and decide if they should go in the circle or be taped outside the circle. "First say *ball*, listen for the first sound, and then say the name of the picture, like this. If they have the same beginning sound, we will put the picture in the circle. If not, we will put it outside the circle."
7. Have the students take turns deciding where the pictures go until all have been sorted.

SUPPORTING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Consider what additional challenges the lesson might present for second language learners.

- Check to see that the students know and understand all of the pictures.
- Ask the students to repeat several times the language structure in the new book.
- Demonstrate saying words slowly. Remind students to say the words slowly and listen for the sounds they hear.

For the Lesson Extension Activity for this book, go to pioneervalleybooks.com/pawprints.