
Alternatives to Worksheets is just what every teacher needs—a resource book with hundreds of meaningful and motivating activities that students can work on independently. Now you and your students will never be at a loss for exciting and challenging projects.

A welcome change of pace from worksheets, these activities will raise student involvement to new levels and generate genuine enthusiasm for learning. You will love the imaginative alternatives described in this book and so will your students. These activities . . .

- Are adaptable to any theme
- Increase student involvement and motivation
- Require students to *apply* skills, not just circle answers and fill in blanks
- Emphasize written expression
- Promote critical thinking
- Allow all students to experience success
- Encourage creative expression
- Require minimal teacher preparation

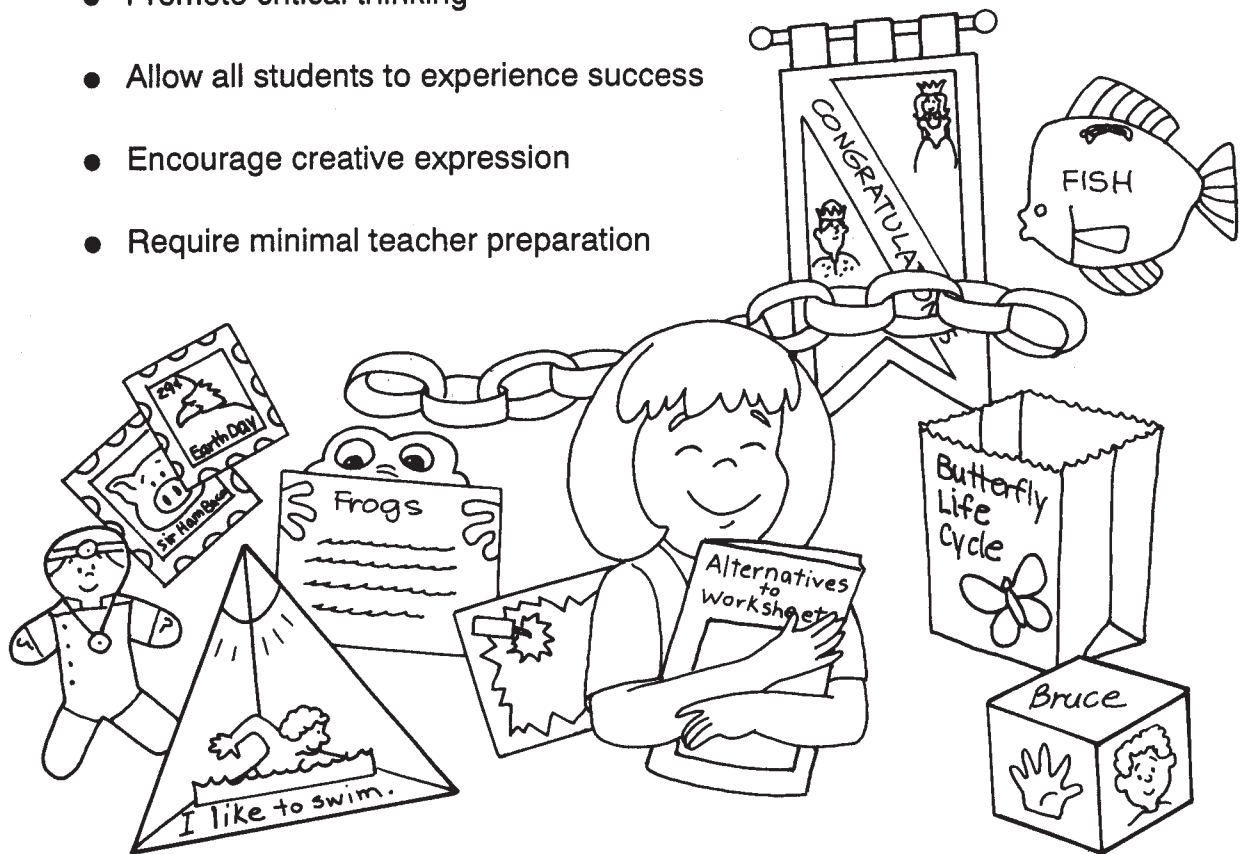


Table of Contents

	Page		Page
How to Use This Book	4	Paper Bag Activities	56-57
Steps to Student Success	4-5	Peek-overs and Add-ons	58-59
Making It Your Own	5	Pennants and Banners	60-61
Projects		Pop-ups	62-63
Accordion Books	6-7	Postcards and Telegrams	64-65
Alphabet Books	8-9	Posters and Ads	66-67
Awards	10-11	Puzzles	68-69
Belts	12-13	Quilts	70-71
Bookmarks	14-15	Recipes, Menus, and Prescriptions ..	72-73
Box Activities	16-17	Rules	74-75
Buttons and Bumper Stickers	18-19	Shape Books	76-77
Cartoons and Comic Strips	20-21	Triaramas and Quadraramas	78-79
Chains	22-23	Venn Diagrams	80-81
Charts	24-25	Vests	82-83
Circle Activities	26-27	Visors	84-85
Cubes	28-29	Patterns	
Door Hangers	30-31	Award Pattern	86
Envelopes and Stamps	32-33	Cube Pattern	87
Flags	34-35	Door Hanger Pattern	88
Flaps	36-37	Envelope Pattern	89
Flip-flaps	38-39	Stamp Pattern	90
Folded Paper Activities	40-41	Pop-up Card	91
Graphs	42-43	• People Flaps/	
Greeting Cards and Invitations	44-45	Person Shape Book Pattern	92
Journals	46-47	Quilt Pattern	93
Letters and Notes	48-49	Recipe Card	94
Lists and Checklists	50-51	Prescription Pad	95
Maps	52-53	Visor Pattern	96
Mobiles	54-55		

How to Use This Book

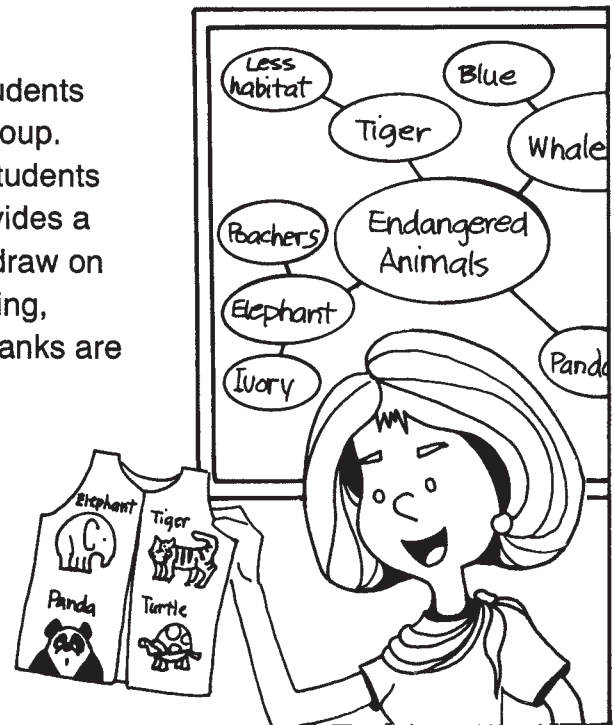
As you look through *Alternatives to Worksheets* you will find many new ideas, along with new twists on old favorites. Choose the project that best suits the needs of your class. The handy list of materials makes teacher preparation easy, and the illustrations help you see at a glance how to complete the project. The patterns you will need are at the back of this book.

Steps to Student Success

1 When introducing a new activity to students, you may want them to begin the project as a whole group, then complete it independently. (Kindergarten teachers may find that young students need more direction from an adult.)

2 The importance of teacher modeling cannot be overemphasized. When you carefully demonstrate and explain each step, your class will know how to proceed in order to complete a successful project. Students are then free to personalize and extend the activity according to their abilities.

3 In preparation for the activity, have students brainstorm ideas in a large or small group. Brainstorming lets you find out what students already know about the topic and provides a pool of information that students can draw on as they complete their projects. Mapping, webbing, and making lists and word banks are common ways to brainstorm.



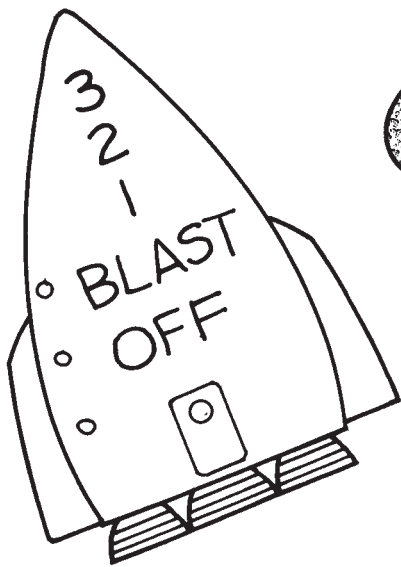
4

Grouping should be flexible. Students can work individually, with a partner, or in small groups. The activities in this book are especially appropriate for use at learning centers.



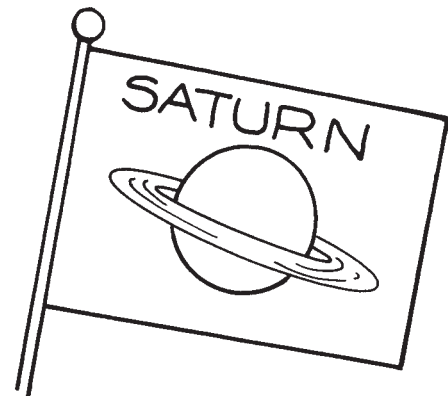
5

A key element in each activity is a strong emphasis on writing. Younger students can rely on developmental (invented) spelling or dictate their writing ideas. Older students can move toward conventional spelling through the use of dictionaries and editing procedures.



6

Students learn best when the same concept is presented in several different ways—so use a variety of activities for the same theme topic or concept. Also, don't hesitate to repeat an activity in different subject areas. When students know how to make the project, they can concentrate more on content.



Making It Your Own

Use this book as a resource and as a springboard for ideas. Personalize it by changing the activities to fit the needs of your class, and look for opportunities to apply the new formats to projects you have used in the past. ENJOY!

Accordion Books

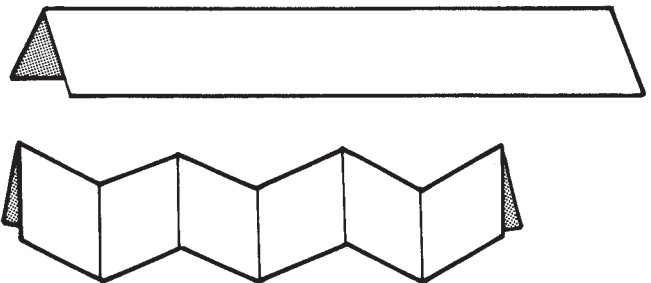
Accordion books are a fun way for students to organize their work. A natural for sequencing activities, they can also be used by individuals or groups to display stories, poems, or factual information.

Materials:

- butcher paper, shelf paper, or construction paper
- crayons/markers
- writing paper
- glue
- pencils
- scissors

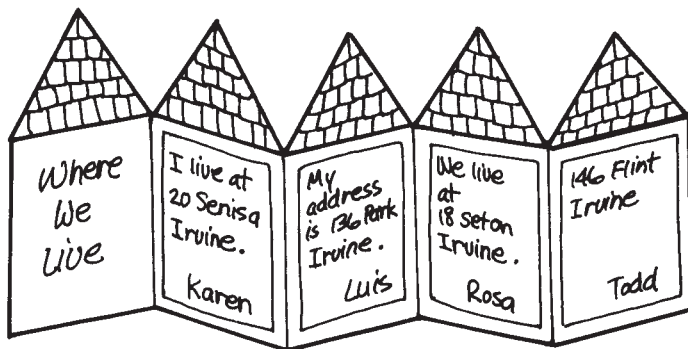
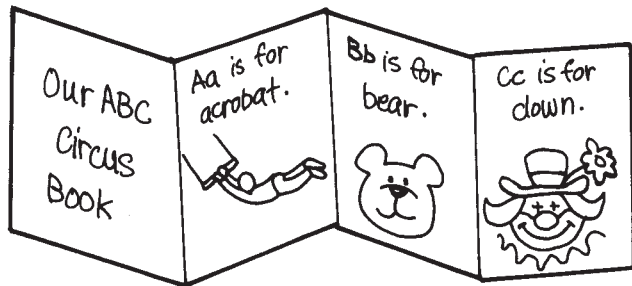
Directions:

Cut paper to the desired length. Fold paper in half lengthwise for greater strength. Then fold it into equal segments, accordion-style. If you wish, segments can be cut into special shapes and taped together.



Class Books

Design a page with text and illustrations to contribute to a class accordion book on a chosen theme.



Step by Step

Illustrate and explain the steps necessary to complete a task. Be sure the steps are in the correct order.

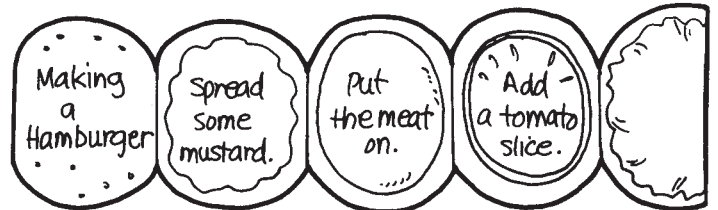
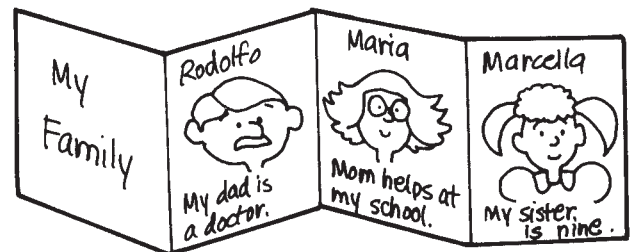


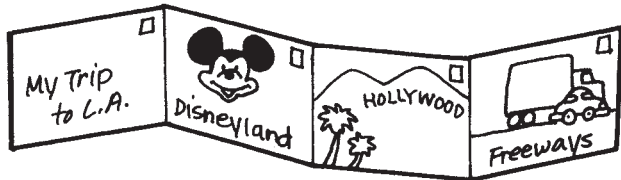
Photo Album

Create your own album by drawing pictures related to a selected theme (pets, book characters, historical events) and writing about each one.



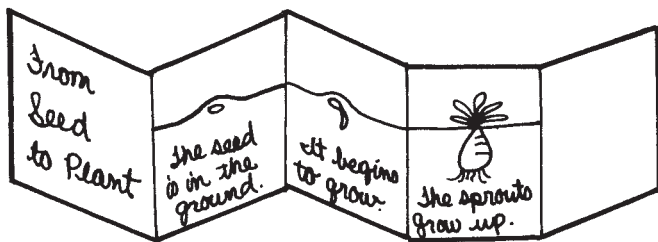
Postcards

Describe a trip you have taken by creating an accordion book of postcards showing trip highlights.



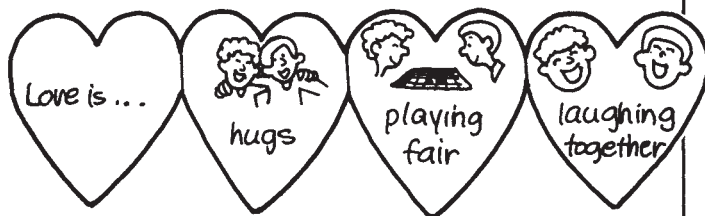
Science Growth Cycle

Illustrate and explain a growth cycle.



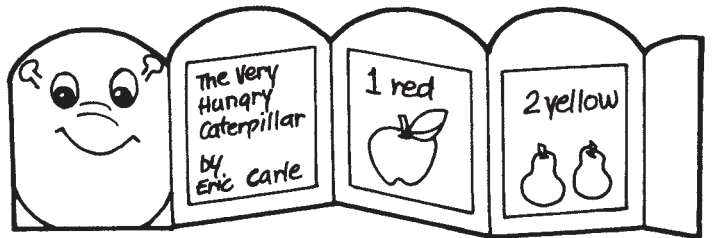
Holiday Book

Make an accordion book that reflects the special meaning of a holiday.



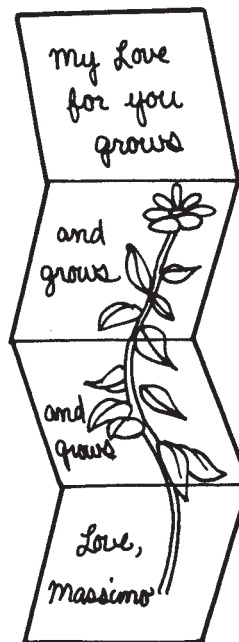
Retelling a Story

Write about, illustrate, and sequence the important events in a story.



Vertical Accordion Books

Accordion books can be made in a vertical format. All topics previously listed are suitable. Add a new twist by unfolding the book to show growth.



Other Ideas . . .

- Paper doll shapes for friendship stories
- Time line
- Theme unit
- Beginning, middle, end of story

Alphabet Books

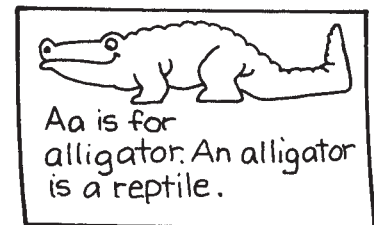
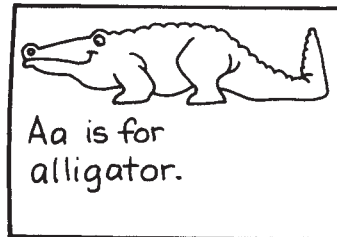
Alphabet books can be used in all areas of the curriculum. They work well as class, group, or individual projects. The books' degree of difficulty can be adapted to meet the needs of your class.

Materials:

- paper
- pencils
- crayons/markers
- construction paper
- glue
- scissors

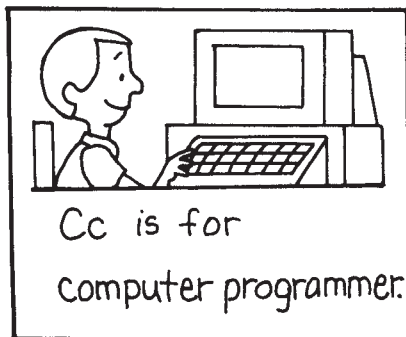
Directions:

Pick a theme for the book. Make a separate page for each letter of the alphabet. Write a word, sentence, or paragraph for each letter. Illustrate each page.

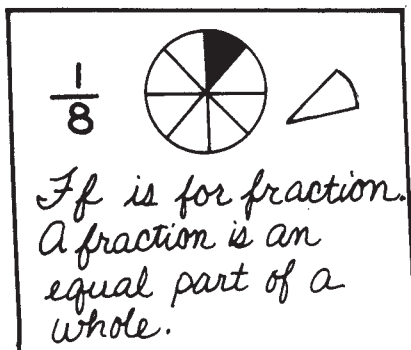


Thematic ABC Books

Look for words in an area of study which fit every letter of the alphabet.



Careers



Math

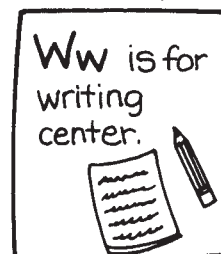
Literature-Based ABC Book

Use words from favorite literature books that describe characters, plot, or setting.



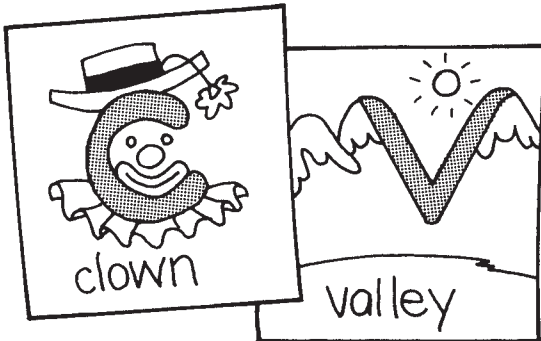
Class ABC Book

Record interesting facts about your class.



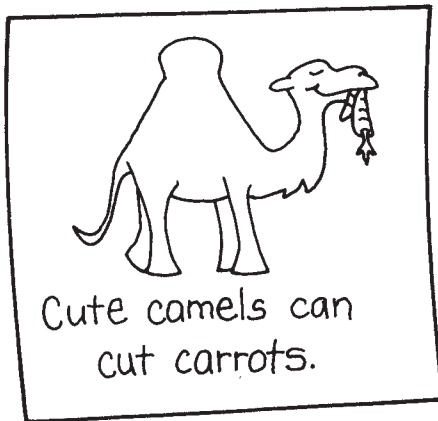
Alphabet Nouns

Select a noun and use the shape of the first letter to illustrate it.



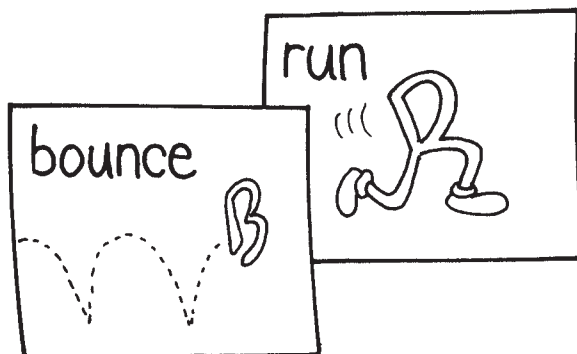
Alliterative ABC Book

Write a phrase or a sentence in which all the words begin with the same letter.



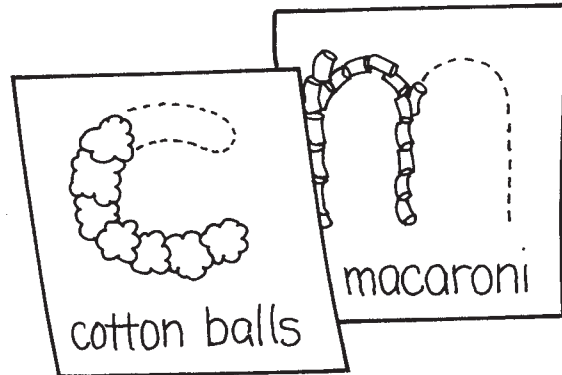
Action ABC Book

Select an action word. Illustrate it by making the first letter do the action.



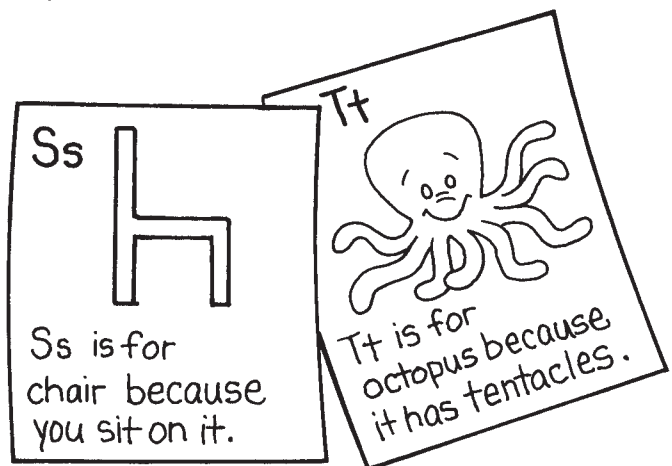
Tactile ABC Book

On each letter, glue objects that begin with the letter.



Attribute ABC Book

Select a word that describes an object. Use the first letter of that word on the alphabet page.



Other Ideas . . .

- Country
- State
- All About Me, A to Z
- Weather
- Oceanography
- Adjectives from A to Z
- Famous Person ABC