

# Letter Machine



## Lovely Letters

**Art**

Gather an assortment of materials such as cotton balls, fabric scraps, small shells, buttons, etc. (if students are mature enough to work with small objects). Provide each student with a piece of cardboard (about 8 by 10 inches) and glue. Assign each student a different letter to print as large as possible on the cardboard. Or, print the letters for students before distributing the cardboard rectangles.

Ask students to start by tracing their letters with their fingers. Then let students use their imaginations to make their letters interesting. They can glue on any of the objects as long as they follow the outlines of their letters. When the glue is dry, have students “promote” their letters. A student can stand in front of the class and say, for example, “I’m sure you all will love my letter ‘M.’ Without ‘M’ there would be no marshmallows, no music, and no month of May.” If students need assistance, you can help them beforehand by reading a few words from the dictionary and letting them choose the words they want to mention. After the letters have been “promoted,” post them around the room in alphabetical order.

## Name Collages

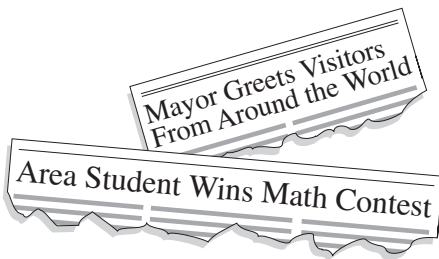
**Art**

Have students print their first names across the top of construction paper. Then provide old magazines, catalogs, etc., along with safety scissors and paste. Allow time for students to create collages using pictures of things that start with the same letters as their first names. For example, Alex might have a collage with pictures of apples, awards, alligators, etc. During sharing time each day, have several students show their collages and name the pictures they used.

## Headline Letters

## Mathematics

Divide the class into groups of four or five students each. Give each group a copy of page 64. Cut enough headlines from a newspaper to provide each group with two. Ask the students to work in their groups and count how many A's appear in their two headlines, how many B's, etc. Instruct them to record the results on their activity sheets.



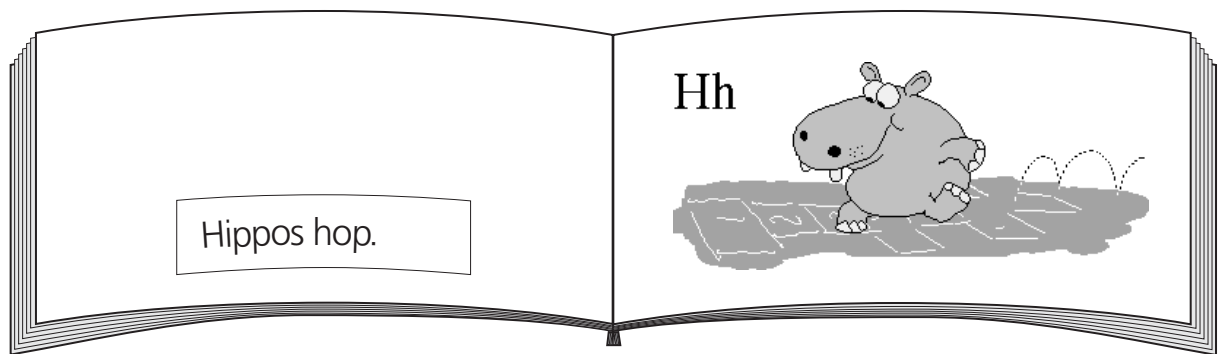
Headline Letters					
Count the letters in your headlines to complete the chart.					
Aa How many? 5	Bb How many? 0				
Cc How many? 1	Dd How many? 3	Ee How many? 6	Ff How many? 1	Gg How many? 1	Hh How many? 4
Ii How many? 3	Jj How many? 0	Kk How many? 0	Ll How many? 1	Mm How many? 3	Nn How many? 4
Oo How many? 6	Pp How many? 0	Qq How many? 0	Rr How many? 7	Ss How many? 6	Tt How many? 8
Uu How many? 2	Vv How many? 1	Ww How many? 2	Xx How many? 0	Yy How many? 1	Zz How many? 0

Once the groups have recorded numbers for the letters of the alphabet, call the class together. Make a transparency from page 64 on which to compile the groups' results. (Or, print the letters of the alphabet across the chalkboard.) As you call out each letter of the alphabet one-by-one, ask groups to check their activity sheets and have the corresponding number of students stand for the number of A's used in their headlines, then B's, etc. (If the number exceeds the number of students in the group, have them hold up the correct number of fingers.) Count the standing students for each of the letters and record the numbers on the transparency (or chalkboard). Then ask students which letter was used the most, the least, etc. You can also have them compare the numbers of A's to P's, etc.

## Alphabet Animals

## Language Arts

Make copies of pages 65, 66, 67, and 68 for each student. (If students have not yet learned alphabetical order, number each alphabet rectangle in the lower right corner before making copies.) First distribute only pages 65, 66, and 67. Have students cut the alphabet rectangles apart, stack them in alphabetical order, and staple them together along the left side. Cut apart the sentence strips (page 68). Each day give students four sentence strips apiece and ask them to find the pictures that illustrate the sentences. Then have them paste the strips onto the appropriate facing pages (as shown below). Alternatively, students can print the words on the facing pages instead of using the sentence strips.



Continue this process over several days until students have completed their alphabet books. Have them decorate the covers however they choose.

## Pack Up the Alphabet

## Language Arts

Give each student an index card with a letter of the alphabet printed in the corner. Tell students that they need to pack for an amazing trip. Explain that they can each draw a picture of an item to pack. All items must start with the letters they were given. For example, the student given the letter "A" could draw an apron. Or, the student given the letter "B" could draw blue bananas. Explain that they can be as creative with their ideas as they like.

Once students have had time to plan and draw what they want to pack, call out each letter of the alphabet one at a time. Have students show their drawings and tell the class what they are packing. Then post the drawings in alphabetical order along a bulletin board strip. Once the students have "packed up the alphabet," point to the pictures as you "read" the entire list aloud. Finally, ask the students where they plan to travel with all of these amazing objects.

## Alphabet Autographs

## Social Studies

Make a copy of page 69 for each student. Ask students to look around the room and think of the beginning letter of each classmate's first name. Then have an autograph party; let students ask their classmates to autograph the sheets with their first names (in the appropriate letter boxes). Later, students can take the pages home and ask for autographs from family and friends to see how many letter boxes they can fill up. Additional names may be written on the back if the letter box is already filled.

A	ARIEL	N
B	BILLY	O
C	CELESTINE	P
D		Q
E		
F		S
G		T
H		U
I		V
J		W
K	KEVIN	X
L		Y
M	MICHAEL	Z

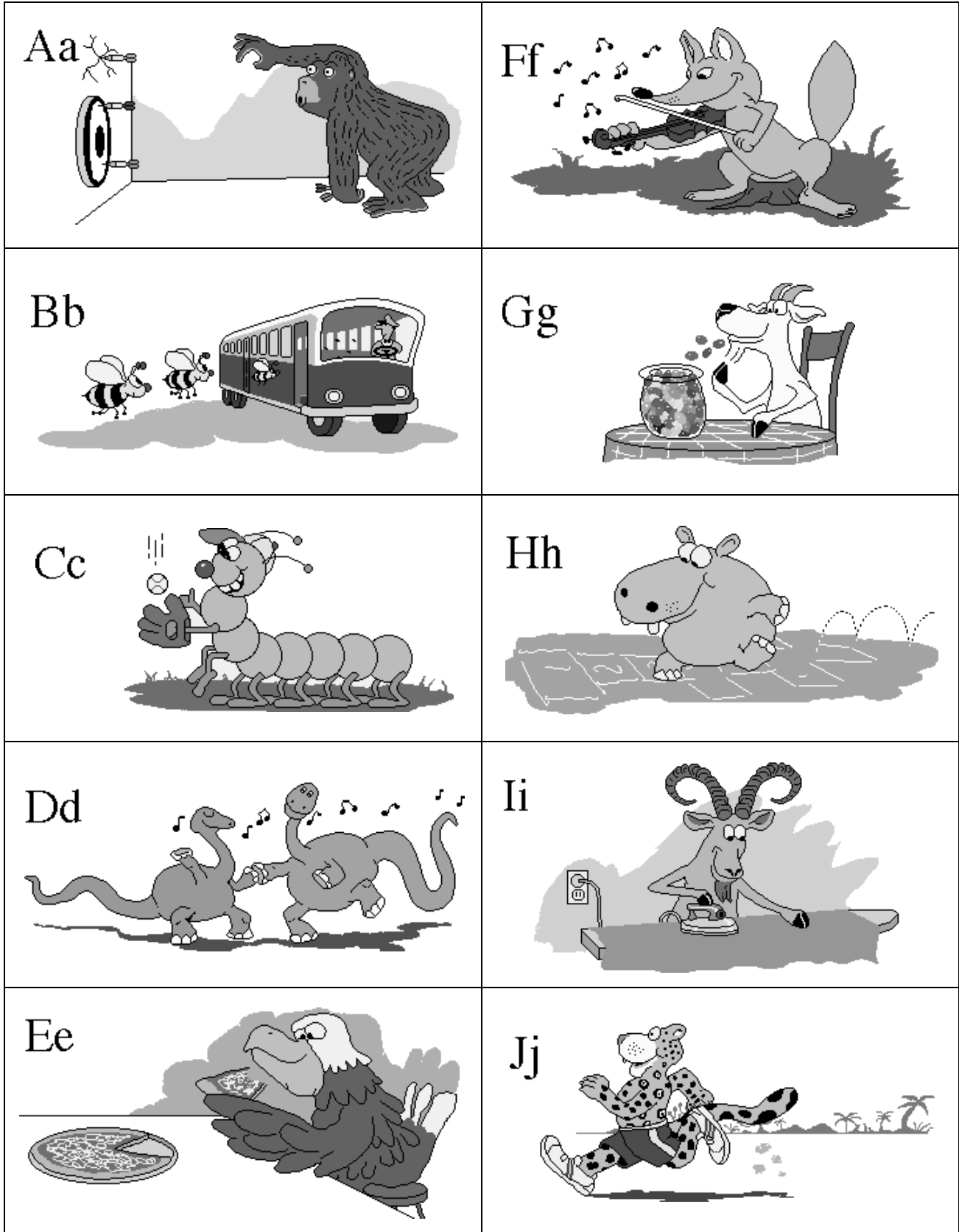
## Match This

## Language Arts

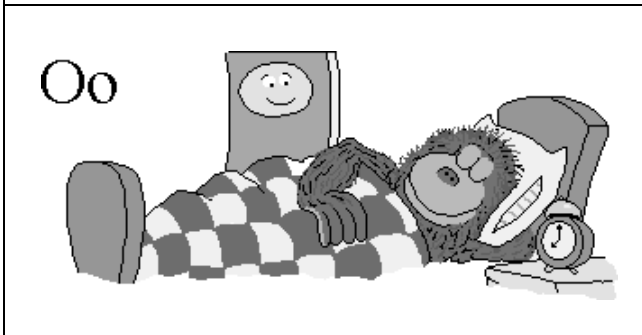
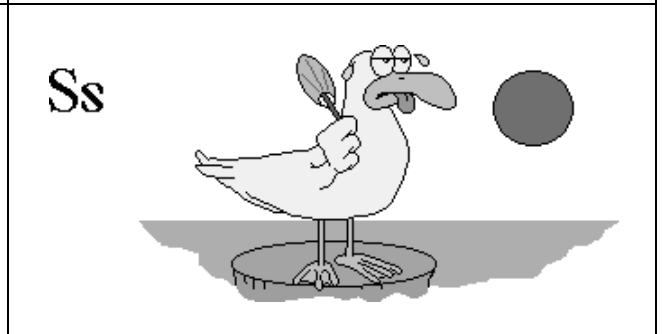
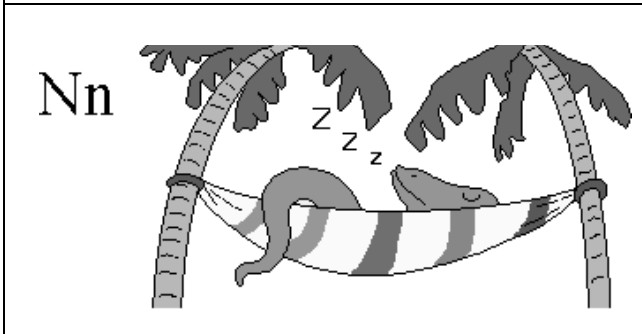
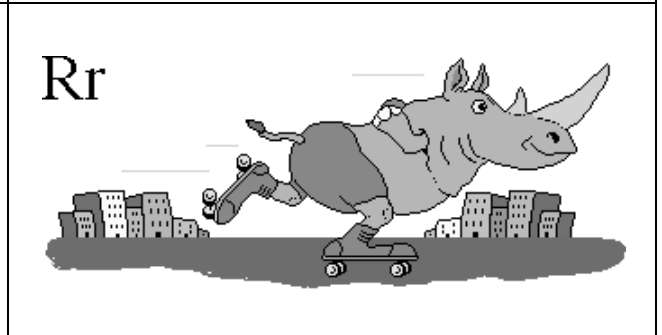
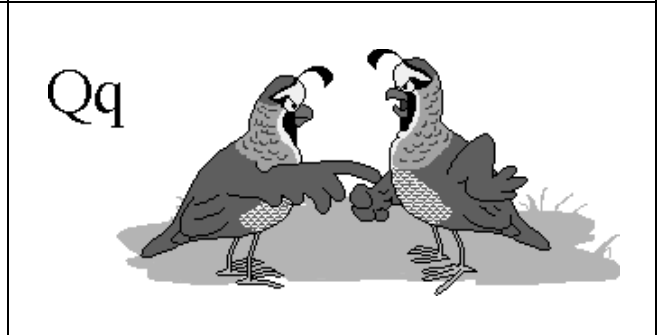
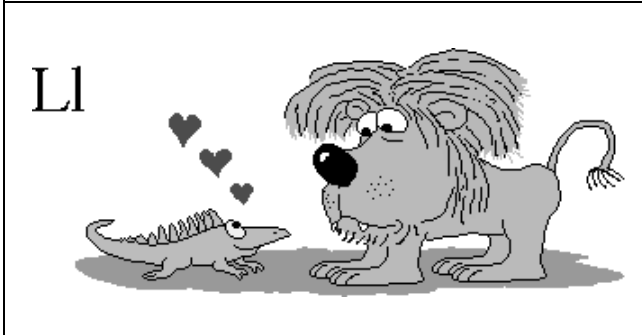
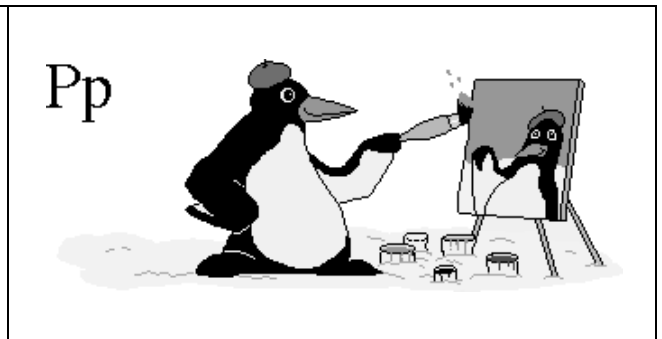
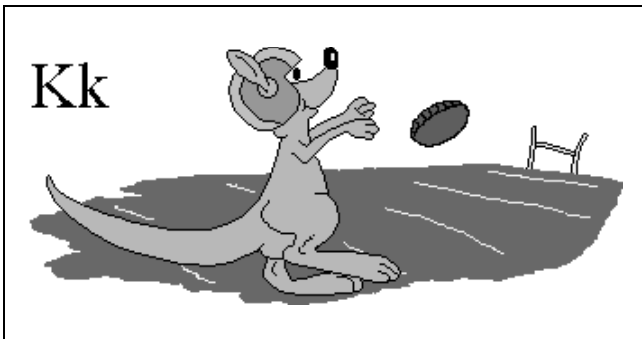
Make pages 65, 66, 67, and 68 into transparencies. Cut the alphabet rectangles and sentence strips apart. After using the Letter Machine, use this class activity as a review. Lay one of the pictures on the overhead projector surface. Place three different sentence strips below the picture. Ask a volunteer to pick the sentence that matches the picture (and remove the other two sentence strips). Then let that student place a new picture and three new sentences on the surface. The student can call on a classmate to find the correct sentence. Continue the process, encouraging all students to participate.

If you prefer, this activity can be done in student pairs. Make each pair of students copies of pages 65, 66, 67, and 68. After cutting the pages, students can take turns choosing pictures and sentence strips for their partners to match.

		<h1>Headline Letters</h1>			
		Count the letters in your headlines to complete the chart.			
<b>Aa</b> How many? _____	<b>Bb</b> How many? _____				
<b>Cc</b> How many? _____	<b>Dd</b> How many? _____	<b>Ee</b> How many? _____	<b>Ff</b> How many? _____	<b>Gg</b> How many? _____	<b>Hh</b> How many? _____
<b>Ii</b> How many? _____	<b>Jj</b> How many? _____	<b>Kk</b> How many? _____	<b>Ll</b> How many? _____	<b>Mm</b> How many? _____	<b>Nn</b> How many? _____
<b>Oo</b> How many? _____	<b>Pp</b> How many? _____	<b>Qq</b> How many? _____	<b>Rr</b> How many? _____	<b>Ss</b> How many? _____	<b>Tt</b> How many? _____
<b>Uu</b> How many? _____	<b>Vv</b> How many? _____	<b>Ww</b> How many? _____	<b>Xx</b> How many? _____	<b>Yy</b> How many? _____	<b>Zz</b> How many? _____



Use with "Alphabet Animals" (page 62) and "Match This" (page 63).

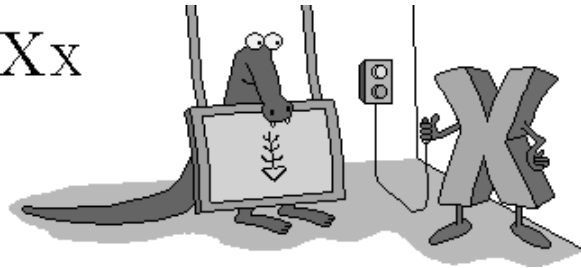


Use with "Alphabet Animals" (page 62) and "Match This" (page 63).

Uu



Xx



Vv



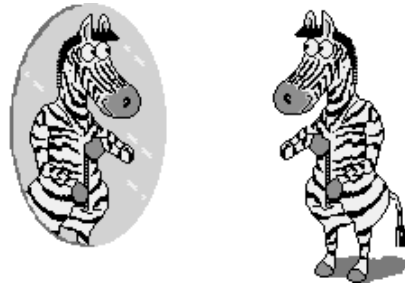
Yy



Ww



Zz



# Alphabet Book

Use with "Alphabet Animals" (page 62) and "Match This" (page 63).



Apes aim.	Newts nap.
Bees board buses.	Orangutans oversleep.
Caterpillars catch.	Penguins paint.
Dinosaurs dance.	Quails quarrel.
Eagles eat.	Rhinos roller-skate.
Foxes fiddle.	Seagulls sweat.
Goats gobble gumdrops.	Tigers taste tacos.
Hippos hop.	Unicorns use ukuleles.
Ibex iron.	Vultures vacuum.
Jaguars jog.	Worms wiggle.
Kangaroos kick.	X's x-ray.
Lizards love lions.	Yaks yell.
Monkeys make music.	Zebras zip zippers.

Use with "Alphabet Animals" (page 62) and "Match This" (page 63).

# Alphabet Autographs

A	N
<b>B</b>	<b>O</b>
<b>C</b>	P
<b>D</b>	Q
E	<b>R</b>
F	<b>S</b>
G	<b>T</b>
<b>H</b>	U
<b>I</b>	V
J	<b>W</b>
<b>K</b>	X
L	Y
<b>M</b>	<b>Z</b>

Use with "Alphabet Autographs" (page 63).