

The Blueberry Game

This game provides practice pronouncing short vowel two-letter combinations. The activity prepares students to begin reading three-letter short vowel words. Students pronounce a beginning consonant followed by a short vowel. They should slide the sounds together smoothly, without a break between the sounds. There are six games: short u, short a, short o, short i, short e, and short a e i o u. The game can be played with up to eight students. You will need to print enough pages for the number of students you will work with.

Setting up the game: Each student takes a berry bush. The berry pieces should be spread out face down on the table. Each player puts twelve berries face down on their bush.

To do the activity: Students take turns picking a berry from their bush. The student should pronounce the two-letter combination on the berry, using the short vowel sound in each combination. If correct, the student puts the berry in a stack on the table. If the pronunciation is not correct, the teacher models the correct pronunciation, and all of the students repeat. Then the berry is put face down back onto the bush. The first student to pick all of their berries successfully wins the game.

Bonus Turns: If a student selects a berry that has a flower on it, it should be put in the stack on the table. The student then immediately takes another turn.

Optional Alternate Rule: Instead of placing berries that have been mispronounced back on the bush, students put them in the letter swamp.







