

Beginnings and Endings

Purpose

Students will recognize that sentences start with capital letters and end with punctuation.

Materials

For the students: copies of Black Line Master (BLM) *Capitals and End Marks*, copies of a paragraph, transparency of the paragraph, colored pencils or crayons

Activity

A. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Tell students that each sentence in a story is a complete thought. Explain that reading is easier when we know where sentences start and end.
2. Tell students that they will practice finding the beginning and ending of sentences.

B. Look for Beginnings and Endings

1. Hand out the copies of a paragraph to students, and ask them what the difference is between the first letter and the second letter of the paragraph. Make sure all students understand the concept of capital and lowercase letters.
2. Ask students to look for the capital letters in the paragraph. Remind students that the beginning of a sentence always starts with a capital letter. Ask students to circle the first capital letter in the paragraph as you circle the same one on the transparency.
3. Ask students to circle all of the capital letters in the paragraph with one particular color (such as red).
4. Ask students how they know where the sentence ends.
5. Encourage students to give you examples of end marks, and write these on the chalkboard.
6. Show students the first end mark on the transparency.
7. Tell students to choose another color (such as green) and circle the first end mark.
8. Encourage them to look for the marks at the end of each sentence and to circle them.
9. Ask students how capital letters and end marks make reading easier.

(continued)



connecting across the curriculum

Science

Have students cut sentences out of science magazines like *Ranger Rick*. Have them cut off the first letters of sentences or end marks and paste the remaining sentence to paper. Instruct them to complete each others' papers.



INCORPORATING TECHNOLOGY

Using a word processing program on the computer, make an activity sheet of sentences with lowercase letters. Ask students to change the first letters of sentences to capital letters.

Standards Links
1.5.1, 1.5.2

Activity (continued)


C. Apply What Students Have Learned


1. Have students apply what they have learned in the activity by completing the BLM *Capitals and End Marks*.
2. Remind students that reading is easier when we know where sentences start and end.


Questions for Review

Basic Concepts and Processes

Ask students the following questions about looking for capital letters and end marks:

 What is different about the first letter of a sentence?

 How do you find the beginning of a sentence?

 What do you look for at the end of a sentence?

 Why do we end sentences with end marks?

Name: _____

Capitals and End Marks

Directions: Capital letters and end marks are missing from the three sentences. Put in the correct capital letters and end marks.

1. maria plays soccer

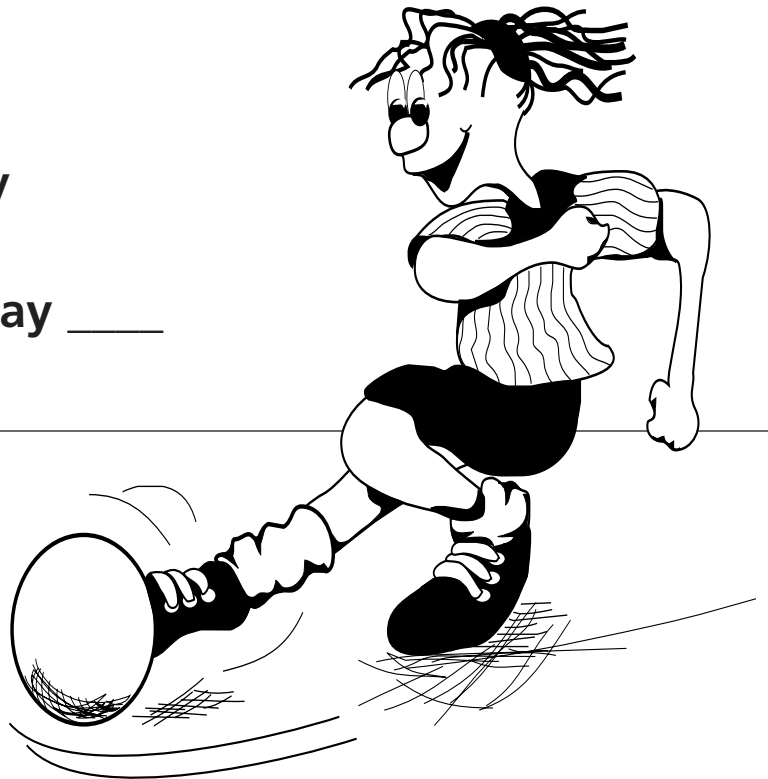
____aria plays soccer ____

2. she runs fast

____he runs fast ____

3. do you like to play

____o you like to play ____



Capitals and End Marks

Teacher Directions

Hand out the BLM *Capitals and End Marks*. Tell students that the capital letters and end marks are missing from the three sentences.

Ask students to read the first sentence and then to add the capital letter and the end mark. Remind students that questions end with a question mark. As you walk around the room, ask students to explain how they went about correcting the sentences.

Answer Key

There are 6 blanks to be completed:

1. Maria plays soccer.
2. She runs fast.
3. Do you like to play?