

Alpha by Author

Purpose

Students will learn to organize in alphabetical order and apply their knowledge in the classroom or library.

Materials

For the teacher: paper, art supplies, cardboard box with a file for each letter of the alphabet

For the students: copies of Black Line Master (BLM) A, B, C...

Activity

A. Pre-Activity Preparation

1. Cut and staple pages and covers to make books for the class.
2. For students who need help with writing, write their names in pencil on the covers so that they can trace them.

B. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Tell the students that they will become authors, just as the people who wrote some of their favorite storybooks.
2. Tell students that in their books, they will keep records of some of their favorite words, objects, or things to do.
3. Inform students that each week they will write new words in their books and illustrate them with pictures.
4. Tell students that you will select a few authors to read their words, talk about why they chose those words, and explain what their pictures illustrate.
5. Inform students that the rest of the class will be the librarians and will find the right place for their name books in the book box.

C. Alphabetize by Author

1. Distribute the books you put together to students, and have them either write their names or trace their names you wrote on the books for them.
2. Each week, choose a few students to read their words in a special chair, which you can label as the “author chair.”
3. Have the students flip through the correct files to find the first letters of their last names and place their books in the correct file. Remind them that they will be alphabetizing by last name.

(continued)

EXTENDING THE ACTIVITY



Take a field trip to your school library or local library. Search by letter for your favorite authors. Read a story to the class. Have them look at the author’s name and see if they can find where the book would go on the shelf.

connecting across the curriculum



Mathematics

Have your librarians double-check the order of the box. Have them take a tally of authors in each letter file. Which section of your class library is the biggest? Make a chart that shows how many people are in the largest three sections.

Standards Link
K.1.18

Activity (continued)

4. As they become accustomed to this system, help students alphabetize by the first two or three letters of their last names.
5. Have students exchange books and alphabetize their friends' last names.

D. Apply What Students Have Learned


1. Hand out the BLM *A, B, C...*
2. Have students practice alphabetical order by completing the BLM.

Questions for Review

Basic Concepts and Processes

Ask students the following questions as they are completing the activity:

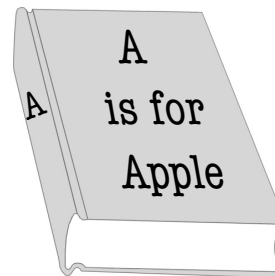
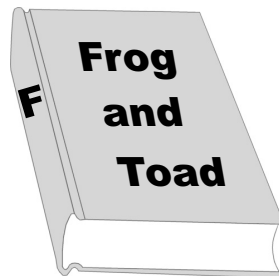
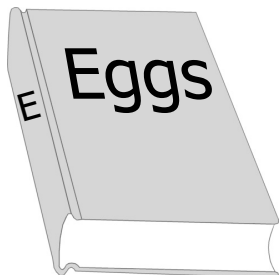
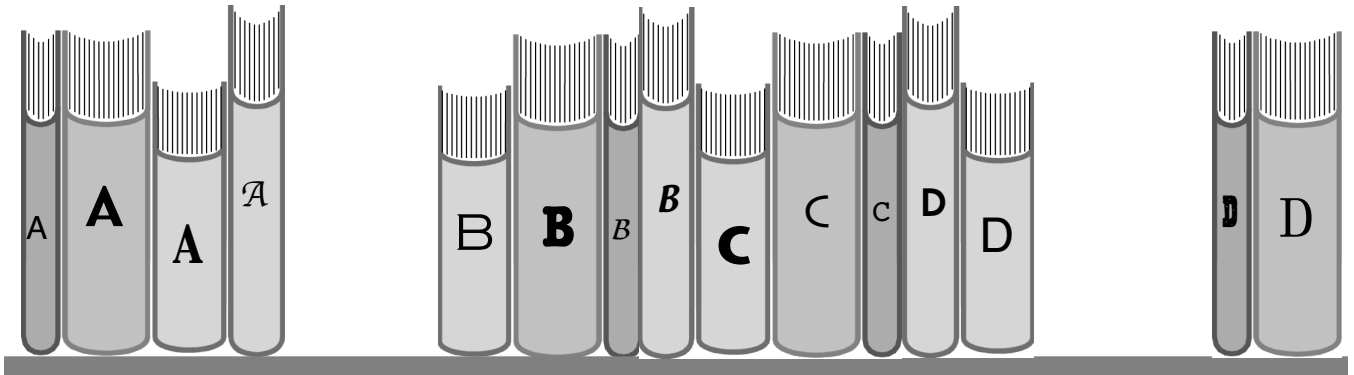
 Whose book would come directly before yours in the author box?

 If you had to put the whole box in order yourself, how would you do it?

Name: _____

A, B, C ...

Directions: Help put the books away. Draw a line from the book to the correct space. Use ABC order.



A, B, C ...

Teacher Directions

Pass out the BLM A, B, C Have students practice alphabetizing by drawing a line from each book to its appropriate place on the bookshelf.

Answer Key

