

Award-Winning

Digital Photography

Projects for the Classroom

The following pages
contain example activities
from the book.

Project 20 - Student Worksheet

HUMAN LETTERS

Product: Printed photos, photo book

Introduction:

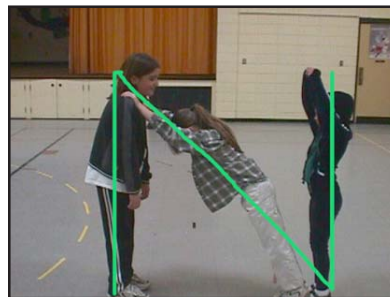
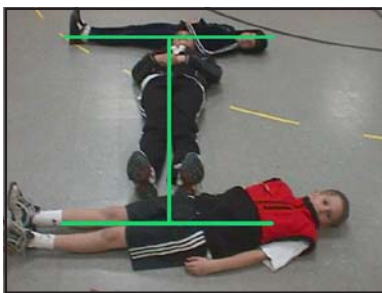
Besides learning by listening or reading, we also learn by doing. In this project, you will form the letters of the alphabet by using the bodies of students in your class. Then, you will see if you can write the letters on paper without looking at the photos.

Step-by-step:

1. Scout for locations to shoot your human letters. A good location might be the school gym or auditorium.
2. Set the camera on a tripod, if possible.
3. Work with four other students. Some letters can be formed by just one person, but others may take up to four bodies.
4. Choose a letter of the alphabet and have your classmates form the letter with their bodies. You might want to have them form the letters on the floor and shoot from a high angle, or you can have them try to form the letters standing up.
5. Try several different photos of the same human letter.
6. Switch places with others in your group and have them direct you to form a human letter.
7. Upload the pictures to a computer. Crop, adjust, or enhance the photos as needed.
8. Work with the teacher or other adult to have them add the lines of the letter over the human letter photo.
9. Print the picture and save it as a file.
10. Continue until the class has done all of the letters of the alphabet.
11. Compile these pictures into a printed alphabet book or PowerPoint slide show.

Hints:

- A good place to shoot these photos is in the school gym or auditorium.
- Set the camera on a tripod, if possible.
- If you are going to shoot pictures of students lying down, be sure your classmates are wearing clothes they can lay on the floor in.
- When finished with the photos, print each letter the same size.



Project 20 - Teacher Lesson Plan

HUMAN LETTERS

Curriculum Areas: Language Arts, Foreign Language, Teacher Utility

Objectives: Letter identification, problem solving

Grade Levels: K-1

Time Needed: 15 minutes to shoot each letter, 10 minutes to superimpose each letter on the computer

Overview:

Have kids use their bodies to form letters and numbers. This can involve a single child or a group of kids. Superimpose the pictures with a drawing of the letter and print them out. Research indicates that psychomotor associations are very conducive to learning.

CD-ROM Files: HumanLetters1, HumanLetters2, HumanLetters3

Management and Materials:

- You might want to have the kids form the letters on the floor and shoot the pictures from a high angle.
- For young children, the teacher or an aid may need to shoot the pictures and superimpose the letters on the computer.
- Perhaps students from an older grade can work with the younger students.
- Some letters can take up to four students to form, so set up small groups.
- It might be fun to let the kids take turns deciding how to form the letters.

Assessment:

- Having the kids figure out how to form the letters is at the heart of the project.
- Afterwards, have the kids form the letters with pencil and paper without looking at the photos to see if they have transferred the skills from the kinesthetic to the written.
- Students also need to develop social skills in directing the other students and learning to take directions. This project can become a group problem-solving exercise.

Project Extensions:

- Have students trace over the printed copies of the letters.
- Have students form short words with the printed letters.
- Have students form the numbers also.
- Record students saying the letters and add those sound files to a PowerPoint presentation.
- Build an alphabet web site to share the human letters with parents.
- When finished, you can post the alphabet of pictures on the classroom walls or bulletin board to serve as a learning aid for the students.

Project 21 - Student Worksheet

PHOTO FLASHCARDS

Product:

Printed photo flash cards

Introduction:

A is for “apple” and B is for “butterfly.” I bet you can think up many more combinations. In this project, you will create photo flashcards to quiz your classmates on what letter the picture starts with.

Step-by-step:

1. Choose a letter of the alphabet or have your teacher assign you one.
2. Take a picture of an object that starts with that letter.
3. On the computer, use a word processing program or graphics program to create your letter, both upper and lower case in a large size—perhaps 350 point. If your program does not feature that big of a font size, type in the size in the format font dialog box.
4. Print out your large letter and the photo of the object.
5. Attach the letter to one side of a piece of cardboard and paste the photo on the other side of the cardboard.
6. Give the class three guesses to figure out what letter your picture starts with. Show them the answer by flipping the card over.
7. As they figure out the letter, post the pictures on the bulletin board.
8. Afterwards, post your photos on the bulletin board to form a visual alphabet.

Hints:

- For the “weird” letters – X, Q and Z – the letter might be inside the word such as “extra” is for “x.”



Project 21 - Teacher Lesson Plan

PHOTO FLASHCARDS

Curriculum Areas: Language arts

Objectives: Learning letters

Grade Levels: K-2

Time Needed: 15 minutes per letter, 25 minutes for the oral quiz

Overview:

Young children benefit from learning initial letters of words by using a more active method than just books. Teamed with a camera operator, the child selects something to take a picture of. The photo is then downloaded to the computer and a large upper- and lower-case letter that the object starts with is superimposed on the picture. The printed pictures are then posted on a bulletin board or used as flash cards. Student's retention of the letter and its sound is increased by remembering taking the picture. For example, the child selects a flower growing on the school grounds and the student or teacher adds the letter "F" before printing it out.

CD-ROM Files: Photo Flashcard1, Photo Flashcard2, Photo Flashcard3

Management and Materials:

- Either allow students to select their own letters or assign them specific letters.
- Have students check with you after taking a picture to be sure what letter the object starts with.
- Help student's upload, edit, and print the pictures.
- It might be helpful to create a sheet of large upper and lower case letters on a printout for them to cut up and use—a template for this is included as the *Photo Flashcard4* file.

Assessment:

- Did the students take pictures to match the letters correctly?

Project Extensions:

- Funny phonetics—instead of going for the obvious, such as "A is for apple," show more obscure connections and let the other students guess the connections. For example, a wheel represents the letter R for "round" or a book represents R for "reading."
- Math photo flashcards – take photos of groups of small objects and have students solve the puzzle, such as "3 marbles plus 4 marbles equals?"
- Put an alphabet of flashcards into PowerPoint and have each letter as a slide following the picture.
- Record the students spelling the word out and attach it to each letter's picture (*Insert>Sound>Record Sound*).
- Photo rebus stories – insert photos of objects into stories instead of key words.

Project 22 - Student Worksheet

STORY STARTERS

Product:

Word processor files

Introduction:

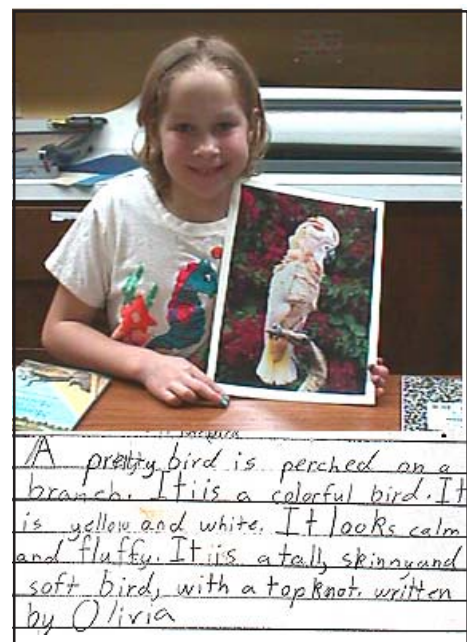
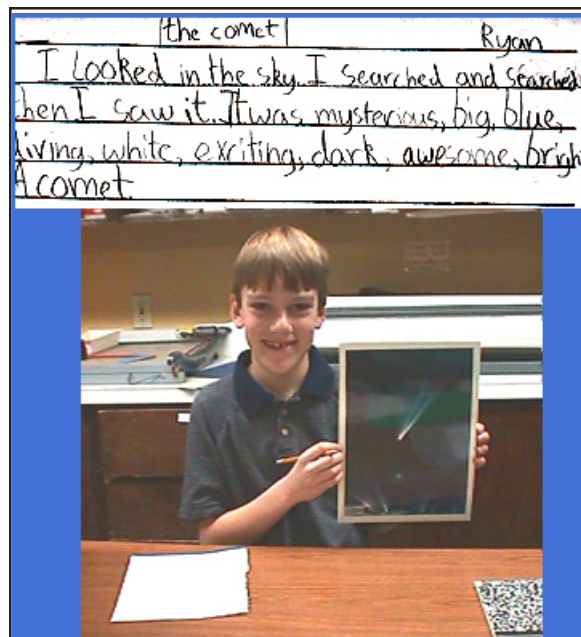
Did you ever have to write an essay and find you had a hard time getting started? This project helps you overcome “blank page syndrome.” By starting with pictures, you can get some ideas what to write about.

Step-by-step:

1. Take a variety of photos of interesting objects, people, or scenes.
2. Place each picture in a word processing file (*Insert>Picture>From File*) and add ten to twenty descriptive words under each picture.
3. Trade files with other students.
4. Choose a story starter file and start writing.

Hints:

- You can take pictures during vacation periods or on your travels.
- You can take pictures of your hobbies or interests.



Project 22 - Teacher Lesson Plan

STORY STARTERS

Curriculum Areas: Language Arts

Objectives: Creative writing, grammar

Grade Levels: 3-12

Time Needed: Various times to collect photos, students take thirty minutes to write story

Overview:

Photographs can be an aid for teaching creative writing. During summer or free time, take snapshots of interesting things or scenes. Place each picture in a word processing file with ten to twenty descriptive words under the picture. You might want to enlist the help of the students to generate the word lists. Then let each student pick a story starter file and start writing.

CD-ROM Files: Story1, Story2

Management and Materials:

- You could already have story starter cards from a previous semester ready for the kids to use.
- You could provide a printed list or poster of descriptive words for students to choose from.
- You could provide a collection of photos for the students to use.

Assessment:

- The heart of the assignment is generating the descriptive words. The quality of the images isn't really the goal, although the teacher should provide some examples of interesting photos or scenes.

Project Extensions:

- Do progressive story writing. After one student has written a story, have them pass it along to another student to add to it.
- The students' stories should be evaluated using standard creative and technical writing requirements.
- Have students draw a picture of how their story might progress.
- In the interest of time, next year you can reuse the story starter cards from this year.