

# Star Words

An Educator's Reference Desk Lesson Plan

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**Grade Level:** Kindergarten, 1

**Subject(s):**

- Language Arts/Reading
- Science/Astronomy

**Duration:** 45 minutes

**Description:** Using a game called "Star Words," students form words by flying "spaceships" to the *at* , *it* , and *ig* planets (word families).

**Goal:** Students will be able to identify words that are part of a word family.

**Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to form words in the following word families: *ig* , *at* , and *it* .
2. Students will be able to read words in the following word families: *ig* , *at* , and *it* .

**Materials:**

- 3 big circles (made from poster-board) in red, gold, and blue glitter to simulate planets
- 12 magnets – glue 4 magnets to the back of each "planet"
- *at* made from construction paper glued to a planet
- *it* made from construction paper glued to a planet
- *ig* made from construction paper glued to a planet
- 5 spaceships made from construction paper for the *at* planet with the letters b, c, f, h, and m (reserve p, r, and s) written on each (one letter per spaceship)
- 5 spaceships made from construction paper for the *it* planet with the letters f, k, l, p, and w (reserve b, h, and s) written on each (one letter per spaceship)
- 5 spaceships made from construction paper for the *ig* family with the letters d, f, p, r, and w (reserve b) written on each (one letter per spaceship)

- 15 magnets – one glued to the back of each spaceship
- 7 stars made of construction paper (large enough to contain a letter)
- 7 magnets – one glued to the back of each spaceship
- optional: princess or prince costume

**Procedure:**

*Introduction:*

Dressed as a princess (or prince), state the following: "Hi! My name is Princess Arwen. I come from a galaxy far, far away. And just as you have planets in your galaxy, I have planets in my galaxy. Can anyone name some of the planets that are in your galaxy?" (Let children answer.)

"Today we are going to talk about three planets that are in my galaxy. They are called the **at** planet, the **it** planet, and the **ig** planet. Right now, we are going to talk about the **at** planet." (Place the **at** planet on the magnetic board.) Divide students into groups of five for the next activity.

*Lesson Focus :*

"As you can see, the first planet we are going to talk about is the **at** planet. Let's say the sounds as I point to the letters. Let's do that again. Now let's say them real fast."

"The **at** planet needs your help. You are all going to be Space Knights and return lost spaceships to the **at** planet. Each of these spaceships I have in my hand has a letter on it. Each group has to decide if the letter on the spaceship makes a word that has the sound **at** in it. If it does, then it belongs to the **at** planet. One of you in your group will return the spaceship by flying it up, landing it underneath the **at** planet, and then say the word. If you don't think the letter on the spaceship belongs to the **at** planet because it doesn't make a word with **at** in it, then fly it up anyway and land it here on the lost spaceship pile."

When all the spaceships have landed at the correct planet, have the children choral read the words together. Tell the children there are other words that belong to the **at** family that didn't have a spaceship. Can they guess what those words are? (Answers: pat, sat, rat) When the children have guessed the words, print them on the blank stars with a magic marker and place them around the **at** planet. Have the children choral read as you point to them.

Repeat the procedure above using the **it** planet and the **ig** planet. (The letters not printed on the spaceships for the **it** planet are: b, h, and s. The letter not on the spaceship for the **ig** planet is b.)

*Closure:*

Review the words on the spaceships and stars by choral reading as a group.

**Assessment:** Children choose from a pre-selected group of books that contain the **ig** , **at** , and **it** word families. Have each child find the words in his/her book that belong to the **at** , **ig** , and **it** word family.

## Special Comments:

### *Technology Integration*

1. *One computer classroom with a large projector* - Go to web site <http://www.bishopmuseum.org> and watch live, interactive sections where students explore astronomy. Children learn about the planets under a planetarium presenter. Children then write words using the *ig* , *at* , and *it* family to describe the planets.
2. *Cluster of computers* - Group children in teams of five. Access <http://www.mtnbrook.k12.al.us/tech/kind.htm> (go to the Science section). Have children view each of the planets shown. Have a tape recorder at each computer, and let children record their thoughts and observations of each planet. Example – cold or hot, the color, are there rings around the planet, does it have any moons, etc.
3. *Computer lab* - Have each child access the web site <http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov> . Each child is to choose their favorite planet and click on it. Each child is to be supplied with crayons, colored pencils, and construction paper. Have children draw the planet according to what it looks like on their computer screen. As you announce each planet, have the children who chose that planet come to the front of the room and display their drawings. The rest of the students will click on the planet being displayed. The teacher reads the details of the planets to the children, but have them read familiar words and point out any word that belongs to the *it* , *ig* , or *at* family.