

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Vocabulary Building, Word Work, Collaboration

Materials List

- ✓ Binder board, cardboard, or plastic sheet
- ✓ Bottle caps, poker chips, or paper cut outs
- ✓ Hot glue gun
- ✓ Marker (permanent or dry-erase)
- ✓ Small catapult (see RAFT Idea Sheet *Staple Remover Catapult* for an easy-to-make catapult), one or more
- ✓ Pom-poms or equal to launch safely from the catapult

This activity can be used to teach:

Common Core English Language Arts Standards:

- Phonological Awareness, Phonics, & Word Recognition (Foundational Skills, Grades K-1, 2 & 3; Grades 2-5, 3)
- Conversation (Grades K-5, Speaking & Listening, 1)
- Spelling (Grades K-5, Language, 2)



Written by Amy Turino (RAFT Colorado)

Catapult Word Wizard

Combine the science of projectiles with the fun of word making!



Sometimes word work is all pencil and paper. Keep kids engaged by allowing them to experiment and randomly find letters that can be used to make words and build vocabulary.

Assembly

1. Place the binder board flat on a table.
2. Lay various bottle caps on the binder board (this can be in a pattern, grid or simply random). Glue the Bottle caps in place with a hot glue gun.
3. Mark letters into the caps, (if you use dry erase markers the letters can be changed).

Playing the Game –

Safety note – make sure that students aim catapults away from other students, animals, breakable objects, etc.

1. Students can share one catapult, or each student can have their own catapult.
2. Students get 10 pom-poms to launch at the letter grid.
3. Any pom-poms that don't land on a letter can be re-launched.
4. After scoring letters with the pom-poms, students need to record their list of letters at the top of a piece of paper.
5. If using this activity at a center, the student has the time allotted for the center to make as many words as they can with the 10 letters that were scored.
6. Students can use dictionaries and other resources to get ideas for words and patterns that are formed with the letters they have.

Taking it Further

The words students are able to make can be added to classroom word walls. Students can be challenged to use new words that they formed from this activity during the next week in their writing. They can also keep a log of how many times they find the words they made in the book they are reading.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=703 for more resources!)

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