



Banff National Park – ESL

Activity Five: *ABC Spelling Busters (Warm-Up or Down)*

CLB: 2-7

Topic: Animals

Goal: Spelling

Language Focus: Writing

Material: Activity Sheet and one set of ABC Cards per group

Grouping: Whole Group Activity divided into even teams (2-4 students per team)

Activity Outline: Each team is given a set of ABC cards. The cards comprise every consonant in the alphabet and two of every vowel. Each team shuffles their cards and spreads them out 10 feet in front of them. Each team's cards should be near the centre of the room with the team around the perimeter.

The teacher calls out a question and each team discusses their answer and decides on an animal. For example: Teacher calls out this question: "An animal that is white." Each team will discuss a good answer (one that does not have more than 2 of the same vowel or 1 of the same consonants – *polar bear* would not work because they don't have 2 R's in their cards).

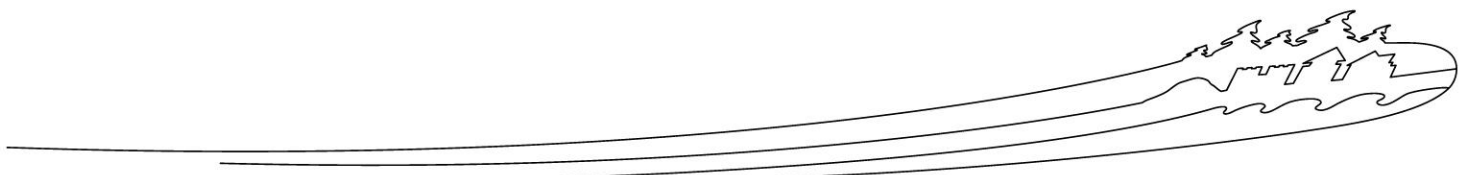
One at a time each student races to the team's cards and picks up one letter needed to spell out their animal. Only one letter per student. They place the letters behind their team and a rule is that no other team can peek at the words of the other teams. Students repeat this process until they have accumulated the letters required to complete their word. When each team is finished, they yell "done". As the teams finish, assign them 1st, 2nd, 3rd place etc.





parks canada.gc.ca parcs canada.gc.ca

Once all the teams are finished, ask the first place finishing team what their word is. If no other team has that word, they get 5 points (if there are 5 teams). The key is to have an original answer because if another team has the same answer, neither team receives any points! The slowest team getting the word might end up with the only original word and therefore the highest number of points. With 5 teams, first finished and having an original word is awarded 5 points, second 4 points and so on. This game is a very fast paced and fun game and the level of difficulty can be increased or decreased by varying the questions.



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

ABC Cards Hints:

- 1) An animal that is black that you can see in Banff National Park
- 2) A summer activity that you can do in Banff National Park
- 3) A winter activity that you can do in Banff National Park
- 4) An animal that you can't see in Banff National Park
- 5) Something you would take camping
- 6) An animal with horns or antlers
- 7) An animal without fur
- 8) Something found in a lake
- 9) A animal found in Banff National Park that is smaller than a dog
- 10) An animal in Banff National Park that some people might think is dangerous*

*note to instructor that whether an animal is dangerous or not is dependent upon the situation (even a squirrel could be dangerous because they can carry disease, an elk if you get too close (especially in spring or fall), and a bear if you get too close or surprise it)