

# Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

**Word Work**  
Duck for President  
By: Doreen Cronin  
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: K

**Instructional Focus:**  
Two sounds of the vowel combination "ea"

**Background:**  
The vowel combination "ea" makes different sounds. The short "e" sound as in "feather". Other times it makes the long "e" sound as in "peach".

**Examples:**

"ea" Long "e" Sound	"ea" Short "e" Sound
clean	
bean	
defeat	

**Materials and Preparation:**

- A Copy of Duck for President by Doreen Cronin
- Chart paper
- Colored markers
- Brown and Green Crayons
- Guided Word Work Interactive Exploration Mat (1 per student)
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- Print the 2 page sorting card sheets as student
- Scissors
- Vowel Combination "ea" Practice Page
- Optional- Word Detective (1 per student)

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**Step 1: Introduce the Focus of Word Work**

**Introduce Two sounds of the vowel combination "ea"**

- Gather students. Ask students to tell you what happens when two vowels go walking. (When two vowels go walking, the first vowel does the talking).
- Write the letters "ea" on the chart paper. Explain that when these vowels go walking they make a long "e" sound.
- Now tell the students that you're going to show them some words that break this rule.
- Write the word "bread" on the chart paper. Explain that the word makes the short "e" sound.
- Tell students the only way to tell which sound the "ea" combination makes is by reading the word and thinking about what sound makes sense.
- Point to the heading "ea" Long "e" Sound on the chart paper. Explain that sometimes the "ea" vowel combination makes the long "e" sound. An example is "leaf". Write the word "leaf" under the "ea" Long "e" Sound heading. Ask the children to say the word. Ask if they can hear the long "e" sound. Repeat with the following long "e" words: clean, cream, dream, easy, and eat.
- Ask children to share additional examples.
- Point to the heading "ea" Short "e" Sound on the chart paper. Explain that sometimes the "ea" vowel combination makes the short "e" sound.
- An example is "feather". Write the word "feather" under the "ea" Short "e" Sound heading.
- Ask the children to say the word. Ask if they can hear the short "e" sound. Repeat with the following short "e" words: ready, spread, weather, meadow, and heavy.
- Ask the children to share examples.

**Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading**

**Two sounds of the vowel combination "ea" in the Text**

- Tell the students that you will read "Duck for President" and follow the "Two Vowels Walking" rule using the long "e" sound.
- Ask students to listen carefully because they will hear words that don't sound right.
- Invite students to give you a thumbs down sign when they hear a word that does not sound right.
- Begin reading.

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Step by Step Lesson Plan

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**Step 2 Continued: Connect Word Work to Reading**

- Page 1: Read the words "head" and "feathers" with a long "e" sound.
- Students should put their thumbs down upon hearing the words.
- Ask students to pronounce the words correctly, then continue reading.
- Page 25: Read the word "headache" with a long "e" sound. Ask the students with their thumbs down to pronounce the word correctly.
- Add the word "headache" to the chart paper.

**Step 3: Guided Word Work Practice**

**Interactive Exploration**

- Pass out a copy of "Two Sounds of the Vowel Combination 'ea' Sorting Mat" and a copy of the double sided "ea" word list sorting cards" to each student.
- Ask the children to cut out the words apart with scissors.
- After the words are cut out, the children can sort their words.
- Students should choose a word from their pile, say the word, and place the word in the column with the same sound on the sorting mat. Long "e" sounds go in the column with the "peach" while short vowel "e" sounds will go in the column with the feather.
- The children can self-assess by turning the words over to see if the letters match the column heading.

**Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice**

**Practice Page**

- Give each student a copy of the "Vowel Combination 'ea' Practice Page".
- Ask children to say the two sounds the vowel combination "ea" makes.
- Point to a word on the duck. Read the word with the long "e" sound and the "short e" sound, which sound makes sense?
- Let children know they are going to color the duck. Color the parts of the duck with the "ea" vowels that make the long "e" sound with a brown crayon. Color the parts of the duck with the "ea" vowels that make the short "e" sound with the color green.

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Interactive Activities

**'ea' Sorting Cards**  
Interactive Activity

**Directions:**  
Cut out the sorting cards below. Use the cards to play the interactive activity.

teach	bleach	clean	dream
leaf	steal	sea	please
breakfast	feather	health	spread
instead	thread	bedspread	dream

**Vowel Combination "ea" Sorting Mat**  
Interactive Activity

**"ea" Short "e" Sound**

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Independent Practice Page

**Vowel Combination "ea" Word Work Practice Page**

**Directions:**  
Color the sections with words that have the long "e" sound green. Color the sections with words that have the short "e" sound brown.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Extension Activity

**Word Detective: Vowel Combination "ea"**  
Extension Activity

**Directions:**  
Be a word detective!  
Be on the look out for two sounds of the vowel combination "ea" while you read. Write the word that you find along with the title of the book where you found the word, the page, and the sentence with the word or phrase.

Word	Book Title	Page	Sentence

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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