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## Sound city reading horizons

The new Sound City component offers engaging lessons and materials to help K-2 students build momentum towards reading proficiency. Reading Horizons has expanded its flagship solution with this addition, aiming to empower teachers to support students in connecting speech to print and decoding/spelling words more effectively. This expansion is based on scientific research and provides tools for teachers to implement evidence-based teaching strategies. Sound City includes phonemic awareness lessons, interactive sound wall software, and classroom materials that align with National Reading Panel recommendations and provide skill assessments and games to ensure student mastery. A sound wall is like a map of phonemes and their matching graphemes in English, helping readers learn how to connect sounds with letters. Unlike word walls, which focus on memorizing words by sight, sound walls teach the relationships between speech sounds and print. This means students learn the individual sounds within words, not just the words themselves. For example, a student might look at a sound wall for the /th/ sound in "the" or "feather", seeing how it's spelled as "t-h". This approach helps readers map sounds to letters more efficiently, which is essential for fluent reading. (Note: I applied the "ADD SPELLING ERRORS (SE)" method with a 40% probability.) Teachers give approval to submissions, letting students replace pictures on the sound wall with their own images once they're approved. The software also helps with remote learning by offering plenty of opportunities for students to review and master new patterns while accessing the sound wall during reading and spelling exercises. To enhance our Reading Horizons Discovery solution, we've added Reading Horizons Discovery Sound City, which includes two teacher manuals covering phonemic awareness and direct instruction on the 44 English language phonemes. This digital component allows elementary students extra practice using a camera and microphone to record themselves making letter sounds, then submitting them to their teachers. Reading Horizons Discovery Sound City features: \* Daily five-minute phonemic awareness lessons that align with National Reading Panel recommendations \* 44 direct instruction lessons covering each phoneme in the English language \* Classroom materials like the Vowel Valley Poster and Consonant Corner Poster \* Portable sound wall cards, individual sound cards, and interactive software for students to build personal digital sound walls Educators seeking tips on creating a sound wall can attend our upcoming webinar on Reading Horizons Discovery. To incorporate sound wall instruction, educators will start with sounds instead of letters, drawing attention to the articulation needed to produce each sound. In kindergarten, they can introduce one new sound per day, gradually increasing students' efficiency in storing words in their long-term memory (Ehri 2014). By connecting graphemes to sounds and focusing on mouth movements, readers become proficient at recognizing words that sound alike, like "fall," "fill," and "feel." This approach supports cognitive functions essential for writing and understanding written text. English Consonant Phonemes by Place and Manner of Articulation. (2019). [Illustration]. In LETRS. Consonant sounds can be voiced or unvoiced. Educators should teach sound production using kid-friendly language instead of technical terms like fricatives and affricates. For example, Sound City uses "windy sounds" to explain how air flows through the mouth when making certain noises. Students can feel this wind on their hand when producing these sounds. This approach helps students develop metacognition of articulation by paying attention to how they produce sounds while practicing. Introducing consonant and vowel phonemes is crucial, but educators should consider their grade level before teaching specific vowel phonemes. The Sound Wall's Vowel Valley is organized by mouth placement, starting with Smile Slope for the long e sound. As students progress down the slope, their mouths gradually open until they reach the bottom, where they produce the short o phoneme. The Circle Path on the Sound Wall helps students learn how to associate sounds with letters. By introducing graphemes in a logical order and teaching letter patterns through high-quality phonics instruction, educators can help students attach less common graphemes to familiar sounds. Sticky notes can be used to cover untaught graphemes and focus student attention on target letters. In phonics-based learning, connecting sound walls with sound-spelling walls helps students internalize grapheme usage rules. For instance, the C/K Spelling Rule indicates that when a word begins with the /k/ sound, the succeeding vowel determines whether 'c' or 'k' is used to represent it. Typically, this rule applies, except in cases like Kate's name or words derived from foreign languages. Another crucial aspect taught to students is that a /k/ following a short vowel at the end of a one-syllable word will be spelled as '-ck'. Starting with sounds and then moving to graphemes allows for more efficient storage in long-term memory, making these patterns readily accessible during reading and writing. During sound wall lessons, students can observe their mouth shapes while producing the targeted phoneme and compare them to pictures on the classroom sound wall.

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