

Planetary Plurals

Phonics learning opportunities

To know the rules for making singular words into plurals.

To apply the rules for making singular words plural.

Organisation

Whole class, small group, 1:1 or independently.

Teaching ideas

It will be helpful if children are already familiar with the rules for making words plural before they start playing this game. Playing *Pond Life Plurals* is a good way to achieve this.

When playing this game with a class or group, the children will need whiteboards either individually or in pairs.

As you begin the game, a UFO will fly away revealing a base word. Encourage children to read the word in their heads first. Then read the word out loud as a group. Check that all children know what the word means. Explain that this is the word for just *one* of those things. What would the word be if there were *more than one* of those things (the plural)? Encourage children to say the plural word out loud.

Ask all children to write the plural word on their whiteboards.

Encourage the children to confer, discuss and explain why they have made the choices of letters that they have made.

Ask the children to show their whiteboards to you. Type into the computer the most popular spelling and click on Enter. Encourage all children to look carefully at the feedback screen and mark the spelling on their whiteboard - 1 tick for each correct letter. Praise every letter that children have got right.

Reinforce the rule that was applied in this instance.

- ◆ Most words - add s.
- ◆ Words ending in a hissing, buzzing and shushing sound - add es.
- ◆ Words ending in f or fe (but not ff) - change the f to a v and add es.
- ◆ Words ending in y - change the y to an i and add es.

Top tips

Encourage children to play the game independently to reinforce their skills. You could build in an element of challenge. Who can get the highest score?

As children become more familiar with the spelling of these words, give them lots of opportunities for using them in their own writing. Encourage them to practise writing them in handwriting and race on whiteboards to see how many times they can correctly spell one of the words in a minute.

