

Teaching ideas

Pond Life Plurals

Phonics learning opportunities

To know the rules for making singular words plural.

To practise applying these rules.

Organisation

Whole class, small group, 1:1 or independently

Teaching ideas

Click on Start. The frog in the centre of the screen will lift up to reveal a base word. Encourage children to read the word in their heads then read the word out loud as a class. Check that all children know what the word means. Explain that this is the word for *one* of those things. What would the word be if there were *more than one* of those things? Encourage children to say the plural word out loud.

Look at the lily pads around the pond and introduce the different things that can be done to a base word to make it into a plural. Ask the children to think carefully about which of these would be the right choice for this particular base word. Encourage children to talk in pairs. Make sure that they don't just tell their partner which choice they think is right. Instead ask them to explain to their partner why they think a particular choice is right.

Ask all children to show the choice that they think is right. You could do this by asking them to point in the direction of the appropriate lily pad or number the pads and ask children to hold up that many fingers or develop actions to represent each of the choices. Click on the pad that the majority of children choose and discuss the feedback that is given.

Gradually build up children's understanding of the rules for adding plural suffixes.

- ◆ 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

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.

To revise the application of these rules, encourage children to play *Planetary Plurals*.

