1st Grade Alphabet: Lesson 2: The Letter M

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SUMMARY: 1st Grade Alphabet: Lesson 2: The Letter M

This document serves as a lesson plan and transcript for teaching first graders about the letter "M." It includes various activities, poems, and a story to engage students in learning the letter's sound and associated words.

Lesson Structure

Introduction

- The lesson begins with a warm welcome from the teacher, Miss Lonneman, and a physical warm-up to engage students.
- A verse is recited to instill a sense of reverence and strength.

Activities

1. **Cuckoo Cherry Tree Poem**:
    - Students recite the poem with varying volumes and movements to reinforce engagement.
2. **Sound Recognition**:
    - The teacher introduces the "M" sound through a poem: "Mighty mountains make men merry," encouraging students to count the occurrences of the "M" sound.
3. **Treasure Box Activity**:
    - The teacher presents items starting with the "M" sound (e.g., mitten, mouse, mug, mat) and encourages students to identify them.
    - Students are tasked with a treasure hunt to find objects at home that start with "M."
4. **Drawing Activity**:
    - Students draw a mountain and practice writing the letter "M" in various ways, using different colors and materials.
5. **Verse Play**:
    - A playful adaptation of a familiar verse is introduced, replacing sounds with "M" to create a fun learning experience.

Story Time

- A story about three brothers and their adventures is shared, emphasizing themes of kindness and the consequences of greed. The youngest brother's good deeds lead to his success, reinforcing moral lessons.

Conclusion

- The lesson wraps up with a review of the letter "M" and a reminder for students to complete their drawing and practice writing the letter at home.
- The session ends with a closing verse, promoting gratitude and reflection on the day's learning.

Key Takeaways

- The lesson emphasizes the sound of the letter "M" through interactive activities, poems, and storytelling.
- Students are encouraged to engage physically and creatively, enhancing their learning experience.
- The moral story reinforces the importance of kindness and the value of helping others.

This lesson plan is designed to be engaging and supportive, fostering a love for learning in young students.

TRANSCRIPT: 1st Grade Alphabet: Lesson 2: The Letter M

Hello and welcome to your second lesson with First Grade Letters with Earthschooling. My name is Miss Lonneman. Happy to be here today. Let's start standing up straight, straight as an oak tree, so strong. Reach our arms up to bring in the warmth of the sun and we will say our verse. The sun with loving light makes bright for me each day, the soul with spirit power gives strength unto my limbs.

In sunlight shining clear, I reverence, O Creator, the strength of humankind, which Thou so graciously has planted in my soul, that I with all my might may love to work and learn. From Thee come light and strength. To thee rise love and thanks. Good day, first grade. We're going to do our Cuckoo Cherry Tree.

Three times. The first time, we'll just say it loud and strong with all the movements. The second time, we're going to whisper it. And the third time, just the movements. Here we go. Coo, coo, cherry tree. Catch a bird and set it free. Let the tree be high or low. Let it hail rain or snow. Coo, cherry tree. Catch a bird and set it free.

Let the tree be high or low. Let it hail. Rain or snow.

Thank you. And now we'll do the fox that moves so softly. So get out your little, um, fox paws. And we'll be light on our tippy toes. And you can do this in a circle or back and forth. I'm going to stand still so you can see me. And then when you try, you really have horse hooves that beat the ground. And then you can skip around when you are the little lambs in springtime.

Here we go. The fox it moves so softly that we do not hear a sound. The trotting horse's hoof beats beat loudly on the ground. But the fox it moves so softly that we do not hear a sound. And little lambs in springtime skip gaily round and round. But the fox it moves so softly that we do not hear a sound.

Thank you. I can reach up so high I can touch the sky. I can reach down so low I can touch my toes. I can turn myself around, and around, and I can sit right down. I

can sit down.

Last class, we're going to do this every class. I had a drawing on the board, but some things have changed, and I thought first we point out what is the same, what you noticed from last class.

There are some letters on the board, and they say, Grade One.

The tree was on the board last time. And now, what is new?

Now there's a mountain, and a sky, and a line. Anything else? There's a little daffodil hiding behind my rose, some grass, and the number two. Last time, what was the number, if you remember?

It was one. So, this is our second class. So, every class, there's going to be something different on the board, and you can look for it when class starts, and then you can share it with your guardian or me.

Great. Great. So, we have our mountain, and we heard a story about a mountain last class, and there were two brothers. What was different about the two brothers? One was rich and one was poor, and one day the poor one was out with his barrow, his wheelbarrow, and he saw something that astonished him. Big mountain that had a bear face so you can see just a rock cliff, but then who did he see?

There were a group of robbers. Do you know how many? Do you remember? There were 12. And so, what did he do? Climbed up a tree to watch and to protect himself and be safe, and he saw an interesting thing. They walked to that mountain And what did they say?

Let's say it together. Simpsey Mountain, Simpsey Mountain open. And it opened. And they went inside. And they came out. And then what did the poor brother do? He climbed down and he did the same thing. He said, let's say it together, Simpsey Mountain, Simpsey Mountain open. And it opened. And when he went inside What did he see?

Gold and silver and pearls and precious jewels, and he decided to take just the gold and silver And he went home and this gave him quite a bit of relief because he could feed his family He was even generous and he gave to the poor But after spending all that money, he had to go back and he borrowed a measure from his brother and he went back in Simpsey Mountain, Simpsey Mountain, open.

He filled it up and when he left, what did he have to say? Simpsey Mountain, Simpsey Mountain, close. And it closed. Now the third time he ran out of money again and his brother was getting a little bit jealous and curious where these riches were coming from. So, he put something, do you remember? On the bottom of his measure that held the bushel.

Some pitch. I don't know if you've ever climbed a pine tree and you've got that sap on you, it's sticky, it's so hard to get off your clothes and your fingers. So, he put something like that, something very sticky, the pitch, on the bottom of the measure, which is what carried the jewels. And once again, the poor brother went in and said, Simpsey Mountain, Simpsey Mountain, open.

He went in and he gathered and put them in the measure and left. And he said, Simpsey Mountain, Simpsey Mountain, close. And then, his brother, what did his brother do? He asked him, what are you doing when you borrow my, my measure, this bushel? Do you remember what the brother said he was, he was gathering?

Barley and corn. But then, when his brother looked at the bottom, there was one jewel stuck to that pitch and he said, You are lying. I will take you to court, the court of justice. And so, then what did the poor brother do? He told him everything. And so, the rich brother gathered a carriage, and he went to the mountain, and he said, we get to say it again, Simpsey Mountain, Simpsey Mountain open.

The mountain opened and he went in and what did he gather? He gathered the precious jewels, and the gold, and the silver, he was gathering as much as he could. And who came in? Oh, and then, he was so excited, he had all of these precious jewels, and when he went to leave, he said, Simile Mountain, Simile Mountain, open.

And what happened? Nothing. Because, why? Why didn't the mountain open? It wasn't the right name and then he got even more confused and agitated and he tried again and in the meantime the 12 robbers came. They came in they said ha we caught you this is the third time that you have been in here and he said oh no it wasn't me it was my brother, and they said no off with your head and that is the end of our tale.

So, we have this Mountain. And now you can stand up. And I'm going to show you the letter, our first letter.

And you might have guessed it if you've seen your letters before.

Mm. M says mm. And here is our Mountain. So, you're going to stand, and we're going to trace, we're going to write it so big. You get to take your hand and dip it in whatever color you want. I'm going to put mine in gold sparkles. And when we're writing our letters, we always start in the heavens or the stars and bring them down to earth to the stones.

All of our letters will start that way. So, I want you, what we really want to do is have big engage this back part. Use our whole arm. So, we're going to start up here. And we're going to go down straight as an arrow. And then we go back to that point, and we go down halfway. We go over. And I'm going to trace this so you can see how I wrote it again.

I'll trace it in red. So, I start in the heavens and go down to the earth. Start in the heavens and go about halfway.

And that is how we form our M. So, let's do that again. You can dip your hand in your favorite color and make a big M. You can see it in your mind's eye. The biggest M. And then we're going to take our finger, and we're going to dip it, and we're going to do just a little one.

And then, if you have a table or desk in front of you, I want you to write it big. As big as your table or desk is that you can reach. Going straight down.

Let's do that again. It's good to practice it so many times and get it in our bodies. And then you can do maybe like this size with your finger.

And one more time.

Let's do our big one more time and let's say, like you have something delicious you just ate. Mmm. Let's move that around really quick. Mmm. Now let's draw it and say mmm.

In says mmm, like you ate something yummy. Stay standing because we're going to do a little poem that has the mmm sound. And you could, first we'll say it one time together. And the second time, I want you to see if you can hear how many times you hear the mmm sound. Ready? Mighty mountains make men merry.

Okay? This time you can count. You can just listen if it's too hard to say it. Mighty mountains make men merry. I'll do it one more time. Mighty mountains make men merry. Five. Mighty mountains make men merry. Every word started with a mm sound, right? Let's say it one more time and we're going to be hiking up a magnificent mountain.

Mighty mountains make men merry. Very nice. Okay. So now you can sit down again. And I have some things in my special treasure box. And they start with the mm sound. So when I take it out, you can call out what it is. One of them might be tricky. Some things have more than one name, right? But let's start with this one.

This one usually just has one name. Did you say mitten? Yes, that starts with the mm sound. Mitten. Oh, this one makes a little noise.

Squeak, squeak, squeak, squeak, squeak, squeak, squeak, squeak, squeak. Who's this?

Mouse. Mmm. Mouse. What about two? Two mice. That's right. This one is a little bit, has a couple names.

You might have said cup, but you also, people can call this mug.

So, we have a little mug. And I had one thing that did not fit. I might have been able to squeeze it into my treasure box. This is something my son made. And it is a mm, rhymes with hat. Mm, at. It is a mat. Ooh, sweet little mat he made. So now we have some mm words.

And what I want you to do after class is to go on a treasure hunt throughout your house and find things or, or out in a park. Let's start with the mm sound. Now, my son calls me Can you guess? He doesn't call me Miss Lonneman, though that starts with a mm sound. He calls me Mama. How many mm sounds are in there?

Mama. Oh, there's two! So, some words have the mm sound more than once. He could also call me Mom. And my name is actually Melly May. Miss Melly May. So many mm sounds. So, you can go on a treasure hunt and find things that start with the letter M. And what's nice is you can also do a little drawing of it. You can write M at the top of an extra paper and then put a little drawing next to it.

And then as you're learning how to write words, we're not going to do that yet, then you can write the word next to it. Okay. Now I'm going to erase my mountain.

Keep our letter M up there.

And I'm just going to write a few of those words. What was the first thing in the treasure box that I showed you?

It was a mitten. You could also say mitt. If it was a baseball mitt, we have a mitten.

What was the second thing?

Mouse.

Do you remember the third? That some people call a cup.

Mug.

This is nice. This is a three-letter word, which is what we want to start with when we're learning to read. And then I showed you something my son made. It was a mat. Mat.

And then something that you might call your mother, for short. Could be, Mom. Excellent, so, Mitten, Mouse, Mug, Matt, Mom.

Tomorrow we'll talk about words that end with that sound, so you can start to listen for that. Great, so now we're going to work on our drawings for our morning lesson book. And you can take out your book, and we're going to today work with three colors again. And slowly as the sessions go on, we'll add in, I bet you have some other colors in your toolbox there. And we're going to draw the mountain, you can kind of see our letter in there. So, your book, if you're using a book in a, um, sheets of paper, we started learning how to use our crayons on this first page and what's nice is now our mountain can go on the next page.

So, you can peek. It's very easy to get our books turned around. So just have a peek. Your binding will be on your right side. And we're going to start with, I'm going to move you closer, our lemon yellow, using Papa Bear. Papa Bear is going to go across the bottom, and you're on your desk flat, so now we have our yellow. And we're going to go and get, we want to make green. Our blue, just using Papa Bear still, going across. I have it at a little bit of an angle, instead of flat like this, I have it turned.

And we're going to keep using this blue to make our mountains. And you can first, before you draw, just kind of see it, just like you did when you drew your letter M in the air. It's amazing how we can see that. So, we'll start here. We'll make the first part of our M, our mountain, and then you can come in and make that a little bigger.

Your second. Now we have that, and now we can go in and fill this in, still using Papa Bear, and if the blue goes down into the yellow, that's great, and a little more green.

And I want this part here a little darker. To separate them out and so, push that a little harder,

and we'll come up here.

It depends on how you work. You might want to just watch me and then draw after class, or you might want to join and do it with me. But the important thing is to, if you're doing something and I've moved on to the next step, I don't want you to miss it. So, you might just want to watch. And then and then draw.

So now, I'm going to add red to my mountains. My mighty mountains.

Maybe this mountain.

Now you can see on mine, I went over it a lot to get a really deep purple. So, you can go back and forth with your blue and red if you are wanting. You could even try a different blue. Maybe you have a cobalt blue. And that will make a different purple.

Okay, now we need our sunshine. I'm going to take my lemon yellow.

And I'm using my mama bear. And I'm doing an arch. And I will show you again in red, so it's easier to see. Filling that in. So, I'm curving, just like when we do the sun. Doing a curve. I'm going to take my red and just follow that curve.

And if the red touches the purple, that's okay. Because it has red in it.

And then, we can go back to your yellow.

Fill in if you want to add more yellow down here, just want some more shades of green. And then I'm going to go with a golden yellow,

I'm going to put a little golden yellow down here. And it will make a little different shade of green.

And then lightly, just kind of a whisper of red, I'm going to put in the sky. So, I'm not pressing that hard. Kind of just whispering it across. A little whisper of red.

You could say it's a beautiful sunrise or a beautiful sunset on the mountain. Excellent. Thank you, first grade. So, that's something. To put in your book, and we are going to write our letter. In the next class, I think it's important that you first practice it. Um, in the air, if you have a chalkboard, that's a great place to practice it.

Starting in the heavens, down to the earth. Sand, if you have a sandbox or a sand tray, that's also nice. There are so many ways. Or outside. With your chalk out on the yard, and you can just say mmm. It's just so yummy to make M's So let's actually stand up And we're going to do that again. We're going to make our M We're going to say mighty men, and then I'm going to teach you one other verse poem before the story to end So with your Starting in the heavens Down to the earth.

Find your straight line.

Did you notice anything about this letter? They're all straight lines. There's lots of things to notice. How many straight lines are there? Four. We're doing four separate straight lines. Let's do it again. Um. M says um. Okay. Mighty Mint make men merry. Say it one time. Mighty men make men ma I'm sorry, mighty mountains.

Mighty mountains make men merry. And you can fill in that with Mighty mountains make Mamas merry. Mini merry. So, you can think of those words. So, I'm going to teach you the beginning of a new verse that we're going to play with. The first part goes, and you can take your hand Dip, dip, dip, my blue ship sails across the water like a cup and saucer.

Dip, dip, steady, we are ready. We're going to take the first part. Dip, dip, dip. And we're going to put um in place of the d sound. Ready? Mip, mip. Mip. Let's try that again. Mip. Mip. Mip. Alright. The second part of the verse was My blue ship. Hmm. What if we do um at the beginning? Why don't you try it? My blue ship.

My. My. Moo. Mip. Alright. Let's do that whole part. Mip. Mip. Mip. My. Mip. Sounding kind of funny. The next part is sails across the water. That seems hard. Alright, let's see if you can do it.

It's hard for me. Mails ma cross ma motter. This is getting funnier. Let's start from the beginning. Mip, mip, mip. Mip, mip, mip. My moo, mip. Mails ma cross ma motter. Let's just finish it. We'll just finish it with like a cup and saucer. Okay, so like a cup and saucer. There's five words there. It's funny. Mic ma, mop man.

Mosser. Let's try the whole thing. Mip mip. Mip. My mo mip. Mills, ma, cross, ma, mater, Mike, ma, mop, man, mosser. Hmm. So, you can play with that. If you have any verses that you love, like, maybe you say, you like to sing, Ba, ba, black sheep, you could say, ma, ma, mac, meep. Or you could try telling your mother something, like if you were like, may I have a cookie please?

May my mav ma mookie meese? And see if she can figure out what you're saying. So, I hope that you can have fun with these letters that are then going to lead to being able to read. So, practice your M. You're going to go on a treasure hunt and find things that start with the letter M. And Next class, we'll be putting that letter in our book.

Okay, you can sit down. We're going to end with our story.

Bring to us your story light.

For the story, you may put your head down on your desk or just sit. We're going to listen quietly. I love hearing stories. Once upon a time, a king had three sons. Two of them went out into the world to seek their fortunes. But they soon fell into a wasteful, foolish way of living, so that they could not return home again.

Then, the third son, who was the youngest, And was a little insignificant dwarf, went out in search of his two brothers. When he found them, they only laughed at him. To think that he, who was so young and simple, should travel through the world. When they, who were so much wiser, had been able to get on.

However, they all set out on their journey together, and came at last to an anthill. The two elder brothers would have pulled it down in order to see how the poor ants in their fright would run about and carry their eggs. But the little dwarf said, let the poor things enjoy themselves. I urge you not to trouble them.

So, on they went and came to a lake where many ducks were swimming about. The two brothers chased two as they wanted to catch and roast them. But the youngest said, Let the poor things enjoy themselves. You shall not kill them. So, they carried on. Next they came to a bee's nest, in a hollow tree. And there was so much honey that it ran down the trunk.

And the two brothers wanted to light a fire under the tree and kill the bees so as to get more honey. But the dwarf held them back and said, Let the pretty insects enjoy themselves, I cannot let you burn them. At length the three brothers came to a castle, and as they passed by the stables, they saw fine horses standing there, but all were of marble, and not a man was to be seen.

Then they went through all the rooms till they came to a door, on which were three locks. But in the middle of the door there was a wicket. So that they could look into the next room. There they saw a little gray old man sitting at a table. And they called to him once, and twice, but he did not hear.

However, they called a third time. And then he rose and came out to them. He said nothing but took hold of them and led them to a beautiful table covered with all sorts of good things. And when they had eaten and drunk, he showed each of them to a bedchamber. The next morning, he came to the eldest and took him to a marble table, where there were three tablets, containing an account of the means by which the castle might be disenchanted.

The first tablet said, In the wood under the moss lie the thousand pearls belonging to the king's daughter. They must all be found. And if one be missing by set of sun, he who seeks them will be turned into marble. The eldest brother set out and sought for the pearls for the whole day. But the evening came, and he had not found the first hundred, so he was turned into stone as the tablet had foretold.

The next day, the second brother undertook the task. But he succeeded no better than the first, for he could only find the second hundred of the pearls, and therefore, he too was turned into stone. At last, the youngest turn came, and he looked into the moss, but it was so hard to find the pearls, and the job was so tiresome.

So, he sat down upon a stone and cried. And as he sat there, the king of the ants, whose life he had saved, came to help him with 5, 000 ants. And it was not long before they had found all the thousand pearls and lay them in a heap. The second tablet said, The key of the princess's bedchamber must be fished up out of the lake.

And as a dwarf, the youngest, came to the brink of it, he saw the two ducks whose lives he had saved swimming about, and they dived down and soon Brought up the key from the bottom. The third task was the hardest. It was to choose out the youngest and the best of the king's three daughters. Now they were all beautiful and all exactly alike.

But he was told that the eldest had eaten a piece of sugar. The next some sweet syrup and the youngest a spoonful of honey. So, he was to guess which it was that had eaten the honey. Then came the Queen of the Bees, who had been saved by the youngest from the fire, and she tried the lips of all three, but at last she sat upon the lips of the one that had eaten the honey, and so the youngest knew which was the youngest princess.

Thus, the spell was broken, and all who had been turned into stones awoke and took their proper forms, including the youngest. He then married the princess, the youngest and the best of the princesses, and became king after her father's death. He advised his two brothers always to be kind and helpful and permitted them to marry the other two sisters.

Snip snaps out, my tale is all told out.

Thank you so much, first graders. So, for our next class, you'll have your drawing finished. You will have practiced writing

M, the letter M, in as many ways as you can find, and you will have gone on a treasure hunt, finding objects that start with that sound, M, like mouse, or mug. One more. Mitten. And there's one more that's right on our body, on our head.

Can you point and find it?

Mouth. That's right. Okay. So, you can stand up. Straight and strong. And we will end with our verse. Our work for now has ended. What we have learned will rest. When we have done our very best. Truth, love, and strength will grow, and we shall bless all those we know. Goodbye and thank you, first grade.