

Lesson 1: Day 1

Getting Started

Materials

- ✓ *A Is for Musk Ox* by Erin Cabatingan
- ✓ number cards (kit)
- ✓ alphabet cards (kit)

Facts and Definitions

- **Vocabulary Word:** herd — a large group of animals that live together
- **Sight Word for the Unit:** you

? Big Ideas

- What is the function of the alphabet?
- Why is there a standard order for numbers and letters?
- How does an animal's design aid in its survival?

⦿ Skills

- With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text. (LA)
- Name the author and illustrator of a text and define the role of each in presenting the ideas or information in a text. (LA)
- Understand the relationship between numbers and quantities; connect counting to cardinality. (M)
- When counting objects, say the number names in the standard order, pairing each object with one and only one number name and each number name with one and only one object. (M)
- Compare characteristics of animals that make them alike and different from other animals and nonliving things. (S)
- Compare characteristics of living and nonliving things in terms of their structure, growth, changes, movement, and basic needs. (S)
- Use globes and maps to locate land and water features. (SS)
- Identify physical features (mountains, hills, rivers, lakes, roads, etc.). (SS)

Reading and Questions

Show your child the front cover of the book and ask him to point to the title of the book. Explain that the title of a book is usually the words with the largest letters on the book's cover. The title often tells the reader what the book might be about.

Next, ask your child to point to the names of the author and illustrator. Ask him what an author does (writes books) and what a story illustrator does (draws the pictures for books). Read the book through in one sitting.

After reading the book, ask your child the following questions.

1. What two animals talk in the story?
 - The zebra and the musk ox.
2. Why do you think we have the alphabet?
 - It is the way we communicate written messages.

3. What letter was your favorite in the book? Why?

- Answers will vary.

Activities

Activity 1: Counting the Letters of the Alphabet

Ask your child to count the letter cards that are in the stack. Provide assistance as needed. Discuss that there are 26 letters in the alphabet. If your child cannot count to 20, practice this aloud a few times. As your child counts, hold up the accompanying number card.

Activity 2: Ordering Alphabet Cards

Look at the alphabet cards with your child. Encourage him to put the letters in order from A to Z. He can use the book if he forgets the order. Discuss that the alphabet has a certain order for the letters called alphabetical order. This order helps people organize information.

Optional Extension

If your child is able, encourage him to place a number card beneath each letter. He will not have a number card for the final 6 letters of the alphabet. Discuss that both letters and numbers have a specific order. This order provides a standard way for all people to communicate information.