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# Connect a Word

## Skills

- ✓ Letter-sound recognition
- ✓ Short vowels

## Materials

- \* Overlay Sheet #1
- \* Dry Erase Pen
- \* Punch-out Letter Markers

## Purpose

- to provide students practice in identifying short vowel sounds and creating words

## Directions

- 1 Place the *Connect a Word* overlay on the overhead.
- 2 Place a vowel in the center of the board. Choose consonants to place on the other eight boxes. (See below left for possibilities.)
- 3 Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a name (or have teams select names) and write the names on the player lines.
- 4 Using your dry erase pen as a pointer (cap on), demonstrate how to connect letters in adjacent boxes to make a three-letter word. Letters must touch one another in order to be “picked up.”
- 5 Ask students to raise their hands when they can create a word. Alternate calling on teams, and record words in the correct column. Teams cannot use a word created by the other team.
- 6 When a team can no longer provide a word on its turn, that team’s play has ended. The other team continues until players can no longer create words.
- 7 Tally each team’s score by giving 1 point for three-letter words, 2 points for four-letter words, and 3 points for five-letter words. (Writing an s in one of the squares provides students a greater opportunity to create five-letter words.) The team with the most points wins.

## Variation

- Allow individual students or pairs to use all the letters in the grid (without having to connect adjacent letters) in order to create as many words as they can. Encourage students to use blends and digraphs to create longer words.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| g | p | w |
| n | e | h |
| m | t | b |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| r | n | t |
| c | i | p |
| k | s | w |

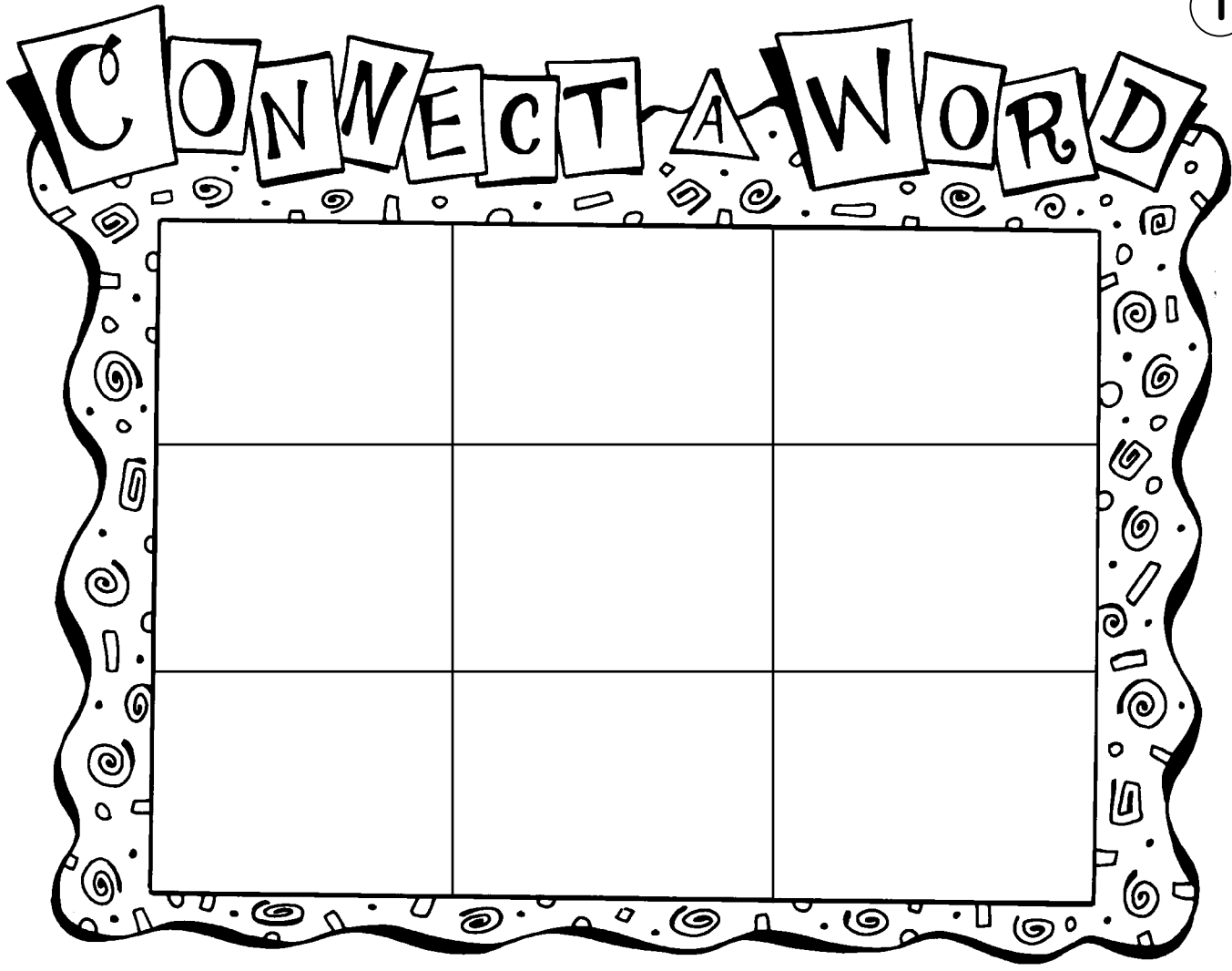
|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| c | p | s |
| l | o | t |
| n | d | r |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| p | t | l |
| s | u | b |
| n | c | k |

**CONNECT A WORD**

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| c | t | r |
| h | a | m |
| f | n | p |

| Player Red Team      |                       |                       | Player Blue Team     |                       |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 letters<br>1 point | 4 letters<br>2 points | 5 letters<br>3 points | 3 letters<br>1 point | 4 letters<br>2 points | 5 letters<br>3 points |
| cat                  | trap                  | champ                 | tan                  | chat                  | chart                 |
| hat                  | ramp                  |                       | man                  | part                  | charm                 |
| fat                  | cart                  |                       | far                  | harm                  |                       |
| can                  | farm                  |                       | pan                  | rat                   |                       |
| car                  |                       |                       | ram                  | ham                   |                       |
| ram                  |                       |                       | Pam                  |                       |                       |
| mat                  |                       |                       |                      |                       |                       |
| Score 7 + 8 + 3 = 18 |                       |                       | Score 7 + 6 + 6 = 19 |                       |                       |



Player \_\_\_\_\_

Player \_\_\_\_\_

| 3 letters<br>1 point | 4 letters<br>2 points | 5 letters<br>3 points |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                      |                       |                       |

| 3 letters<br>1 point | 4 letters<br>2 points | 5 letters<br>3 points |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                      |                       |                       |

Score \_\_\_\_\_

Score \_\_\_\_\_