

Spade of Words Card Game

Literacy Skills / Spelling



Materials

1. Deck of playing cards
2. Individual dry erase boards



Virginia SOLs

1.4, 1.12, 2.12

Procedure

1. The objective of the game is to be the first to get rid of all your cards.
2. Deal 5-8 cards to each student and place the remaining deck in the middle of the table.
3. The first student puts down a card. Everyone prepares to spell a word.
4. The number on the card indicates the number of letters that must be in the word. The first letter of the card's suit (diamond/spade/club/heart) must appear somewhere in the word or provide the first letter of the digraph/blend. For example, if the student draws a 4 of diamonds, s/he might spell "drip."
5. Each student writes his/her word on a dry erase board. The teacher checks the spelling. If the word is misspelled or the student can't come up with a word, s/he must draw another card from the deck.
6. If a face card (king/queen/jack/ace/joker) is laid down, the students can make up any word. To make the game at your students' level, you may need to eliminate some of the higher cards, such as all sevens, eights, and nines.
7. Continue play until one student has laid down all cards. Optional rules include "no names" and/or a word may only be used once during a game.