

WordWorld

"X Marks the Spot"

Teleplay written by  
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LITERACY LESSON: letter identification; the letter X

TAKE-AWAY WORD: X-RAY

**TITLE CARD: 1**

1 KIDS  
X Marks the Spot.

TILT DOWN TO:

**EXT. WORD WORLD - FROG'S LOG - DAY**

2 NARRATOR  
On this exciting day in WordWorld,  
Duck was helping Frog build a most  
excellent machine...

**INT. FROG'S LOG - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Frog, in full inventor/engineer mode -- his workspace  
littered with charts and chalkboards showing alphabetic  
equations -- unfurls a BLUEPRINT of a WT X-RAY MACHINE,  
while Duck, his assistant, spins and waves to CAM.

3 DUCK  
I sure am, Mr. Narrator! I'm  
helping Frog build a... er... um...  
what'cha call it again, Frog?

4 FROG  
An X-Ray!

5 DUCK  
A what Ray?

6 FROG  
An X-Ray!  
(Points to blueprint)  
It's a machine that lets you see  
through walls -- and all kinds of  
things!

7 DUCK  
Oh!

8 FROG  
It can see inside your tummy -- and  
show us what you had for lunch!

Frog gently pokes Duck's tummy. Duck <QUACKS>.

9 FROG  
But to build it, we'll need an  
extra-ordinary letter, Duck. A  
letter that looks like two lines  
crossing in the middle...

Frog draws over the X on the blueprint's X-RAY MACHINE.

10 DUCK  
Hey, I know that letter. It's the  
letter X!

11 FROG  
Right! X is the letter that puts  
the "X" in X-ray. And... Uh-oh!

INCLUDE: Frog's nearly EMPTY letter shelf w/no letter X.

12 FROG  
I'm all out of them!  
(RIBBIT)  
I can't build my X-ray!

Duck throws a cheerful wing around Frog.

13 DUCK  
Aw, don't worry, Frog! I happen ta  
have one of them letter X  
thingamadoodles back in muh nest!

14 FROG  
You do?

15 DUCK  
Yep! Hold on! I'll go get it!  
Quack quack!

Duck flies out of the Log! Frog SMILES! As we...

CUT TO:

**EXT. THE DOCK - DUCK'S NEST - CONTINUOUS**

Duck flies into scene -- diving deep into his nest...

16 DUCK  
Letter X, letter X, where are ya,  
letter X! Frog needs ya ta build  
his X-ray!

... and madly tossing out items! Like:

17 DUCK  
My letter A? No! My Tuba! No! My  
collected works of Norman Mallard?  
No! Ah - here it is!

He lifts up a big letter X.

18 DUCK  
My letter X!

He gives the letter a TAP. <SFX: /x/!>

19 DUCK  
Yup! That's the sound of the  
letter X! <Sounds it out> /x/!

He starts to tap it like a tambourine: </X/> </X/> </X/>!

MUSIC CUE A:

Duck dances along the DOCK -- singing and tapping his X!

20 DUCK (SINGING)  
*What letter is super great?/It's  
got two lines crossing in the  
middle/that's the answer to my  
riddle/it's my letter -- OOF!*

Suddenly, his foot catches on a plank! DUCK falls head  
over heels. The letter X flies WAY UP into the air!

21 NARRATOR  
Oh no! Duck tripped and lost his  
letter X! It flew up into the air!

ON WATER to see: SHARK surfacing, sporting a big beaming  
smile; eyes closed, mouth WIDE open as--

22 NARRATOR  
And just then, his good pal Shark  
popped up to say hello!

23 SHARK  
Oh, Duuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu--

ON THE LETTER X: dropping right down into Shark's GULLET!

24 SHARK  
---- uck! <GULP!>

25 NARRATOR  
Oh dear. The letter X fell into  
Shark's mouth. Wait Shark, don't--

26 SHARK  
<GULP!>

27 NARRATOR  
--swallow it. <Sigh> Too late.

28 SHARK  
<BURP!> <To CAM> 'Scuse me.

ON DUCK: frantically searching the DOCK.

29 DUCK

Oh no! Quack quack! Where'd it go?!

Shark shuffles in beside him, calm and clueless.

30 SHARK

Where'd what go, Duck?

31 DUCK

Muh letter X! I was playing with it, but then I tripped and lost it!

32 SHARK

Sorry, Duck. I haven't seen it!  
<BURP!>

33 NARRATOR

Duck and Shark didn't know it, but Duck's letter X was inside Shark's tummy!

Shark's tummy <RUMBLES> and when it does we can clearly see the distinctive outline of Duck's letter X inside.

34 SHARK

Ooow! My tummy sure feels funny!

Shark taps it to sooth it. And when he does: SFX: </x/!>  
Suddenly, Duck PERKS UP, electrified with hope!

35 DUCK

QUACK! DIDJA HEAR THAT, SHARK?!  
IT WAS THE SOUND OF MUH LETTER X!

ONE SHOT: Shark framed in center. Duck, wide-eyed and manic, ZIPS to the foreground, looking off SCREEN RIGHT.

36 DUCK (POINTS)

Follow me! It came from over here!

Shark taps his tummy again. <SFX: /x/!> Duck ZIPS to foreground screen left pointing OS!

37 DUCK

No, NO, it came from over there!

And again. Tap. </X/!> Duck ZIPS behind Shark, popping up from behind his shoulder, pointing both left & right.

38 DUCK

Agh! I think it's coming from here  
AND there!

39 NARRATOR

Duck didn't know it, but every time  
Shark tapped his tummy, the letter  
X made its sound!

40 SHARK

Ooooooh, I have a tummy ache!

Shark's tummy RUMBLES again -- we can see the impression  
of the X inside once more -- Shark taps it to sooth it!

SFX: <X!> Duck REACTS! He flaps into the air!

41 DUCK

There it is again! QUACK! Muh  
letter X must be... <CLUELESS>  
WAAAAAAAAAAAAAY OVER THERE! Come  
on, Shark, follow me!!!!

Duck flies off! Shark hops off after him...

42 SHARK

Okay, Duck!

... and on each hop we HEAR: </x/!> </x!> </x/!>

CUT TO:

# **EXT. WORD WORLD - TRAIN TRACKS - SOON AFTER**

PICK UP: Duck and Shark on the hunt (walking parallel to  
train tracks). Duck cupping ear, listens this way and  
that; while Shark hops right behind him. </X/!> </X/!>

43 NARRATOR

So Duck and Shark went in search of  
Duck's lost letter X...

MUSIC CUE B: Duck SINGS, a pep to his step -- as  
KANGAROO'S TRAIN starts to approach...

44 DUCK (SINGING)

*What letter is super great?/It's  
got two lines crossing in the  
middle/that's the answer to my  
riddle/It's my letter -- !!*

Shark <GROANS> and taps his tummy. </X/!>

45 DUCK

-- X? <GASP!> There it is again!  
The sound of muh letter X!  
(MORE)

DUCK (CONT'D)  
 (Spins to face Shark's tummy)  
 And it's coming from...

Just then, Kangaroo's train passes him. Specifically, a BOX in its cargo. Duck's eyes BULGE!

46 DUCK  
 ... on top of that train! There it  
 is! Muh letter X! <POINTS!>

CUT TO AND PUSH IN RAPID EXTREME CU ON: the X in BOX!

BACK ON DUCK: He antics like a Squirrel who just spotted the last nut on earth!

47 DUCK  
 Come baaaaaack!

He dives onto the box -- going along for the bumpy ride!

48 DUCK (BUMPING ALONG)  
 Quackquackquackquackquackquack!

Kangaroo REACTS! Stops train. Hops to Duck, annoyed.

49 KANGAROO  
 Crikey! Um, Duck, just what do you  
 think you're doing, mate?

50 DUCK  
 Er, what's it look like I'm doing,  
 Kangaroo? I'm getting back muh X!  
 <GRUNTS>

He STRUGGLES to remove the X from the word BOX. She takes the box away from Duck and points out:

51 KANGAROO  
 Duck, that's not your X! It's my  
 X! It's the letter X in my Box!  
 See? <Pointing out> B-O-X - Box!

52 DUCK  
 It is?

53 KANGAROO  
 It sure is! It makes the /x/ sound  
 in box. /b/-/o/-/X/! Box. I can't  
 let you have my letter X, Duck!

54 DUCK  
 Ah. Er, sorry, Kangaroo.

55 KANGAROO  
That's okay, Duck. I hope you find  
your letter X!

Kangaroo hops off with her box. Shark sidles to Duck.

56 DUCK  
Oh, Shark! This is terrible! I'm  
never going find muh letter X!

He sits, dejected.

57 SHARK  
Ah, don't worry, Duck. You'll find  
it. OW! My tummy sure feels crummy!

Shark sits too. And when he does. </X/!> Duck PERKS UP!

58 DUCK  
Wait! I HEAR IT AGAIN! Muh letter  
X! Quack quack!

Duck zips OS! Shark SHRUGS to CAM... and runs after him!

CUT TO:

**EXT. WORD WORLD - CONTINUOUS - CLOSE ON A BUSH**

Duck and Shark pop up behind it. Duck points.

59 DUCK  
I think it's right there, behind  
those bushes!

PULL OUT to reveal: A letter X swaying behind bushes in  
the foreground. Whoosh! Duck and Shark zip to it.

60 DUCK  
<Points, triumphant> I toldja!

MUSIC CUE C Duck dances the *funky chicken* round the bush.

61 DUCK (SINGING)  
*What letter is super great?/It's  
got two lines crossing in the  
middle/that's the answer to my  
riddle/it's my letter -- <TUGS X!>*

62 FOX (O.S.)  
YEEOOOOOOOOOW!



But instead of his X, Duck pulls up... FOX (a British gentleman reminiscent of an old English fox hunter) from behind the bushes! That X is the X in his tail! Duck holds him up like a fish; Fox's feet dangle in the air.

**63** FOX  
Unhand me, you pedestrian fowl!  
<Grumble grumble!> Harrumph!

**64** DUCK  
Oh, 'scuse me! <Points> I thought  
this was muh letter X!

**65** FOX  
Your letter X? Wot, wot! My good  
chap, it's MY letter X! It's the X  
in my name! F-O-X... Fox! Listen  
here, it even makes the <x> sound  
in my name /f/-/o/-/X/! FOX!

**66** DUCK  
<LET'S GO> Oh. Sorry, Mr. Fox.

Duck deposits Fox on the ground. Fox straightens his letters. And his hat. Dignity reclaimed.

**67** FOX  
Ah, no harm done! I hope you find  
your letter X. It's a wonderful  
letter. I can't do without it!  
(Doffs hat)  
Well cheerio, and good luck!

Fox doffs his hat and fox-trots away. Duck frowns.

**68** DUCK  
Where O' where is muh letter X?!

Shark steps in, wearing a big grimace. His tummy RUMBLES.

**69** SHARK  
I don't know, Duck! But I have to  
lay down! My tummy sure hurts!

Shark lays down. And when he does: </X/!>

**70** DUCK  
QUACK! IT'S THE SOUND OF MUH X!

A little manic, he jumps up onto Shark's tummy. </X/!>

**71** DUCK  
Hoo and ray! It's SUPER close!!

Duck's so excited - he starts bouncing up and down. SFX:  
 </X!/> </X!/> </X!/> </X!/> </X!/>

72 SHARK  
 Ummmm Du-duck! This isn't helping  
 my tummy ache you know!

73 DUCK  
 Whoops! Sorry Duck!

Duck hops right off -- and points!

74 DUCK  
 Quack! It's over there!!!

He runs OS! Shark hops to feet -- <X>! -- and follows.

CUT TO:

**EXT. PIG'S BARN - CONTINUOUS**

Duck pops up in the background. He points to a big  
 letter X being held up (by Pig) CU in the foreground.

75 DUCK  
 Muh letter X! Gimme that, Pig!

Duck RUNS to grab it: as we PULL OUT to reveal: PIG! He's  
 sitting on his lawn, holding onto the letter X.

76 PIG  
 HUH? What're you quacking about,  
 Duck? This is my letter X!  
 (Pulls it back)  
 I'm playing TIC-TAC-TOE with Ant!

ADJUST to REVEAL: A big Tic-tac-toe board on the grass,  
 and ANT -- holding a big honking letter "O."

77 DUCK  
 Oh.

78 ANT  
 "O" is right! The "O's" win again!

ANT plops down the winning O. He does a touchdown dance!

79 ANT (VICTORY CHANT)  
 O! O! O-O!

Pig <SLAPS> forehead. As we PAN OFF PIG to SETTLE ON:

DUCK. Shark shuffles up to him, as Duck explodes.

80 DUCK  
 I don't understand it, Shark! There  
 are letter Xs everywhere -- and  
 none of 'em are mine! Quack.  
 (Throws wings to heaven)  
 I'm exhausted!

He sits down, feet splayed, in sad defeat.

MUSIC CUE C: Duck sings a sad, sad song.

81 DUCK  
*What letter was super great?/It had  
 two lines crossing in the  
 middle/that was the answer to my  
 riddle... it was my letter-*

82 SHARK  
 <GROAN> OooOOoow...

Shark taps his tummy. </X/!> This time Duck notices!

83 DUCK  
 ... X? <DOUBLE TAKE> Whozziwhazit!

84 SHARK  
 OOOh, my tummy feels OWY.

85 DUCK  
 Shark, do that again!

86 SHARK  
 Do what again? Rub my tummy? Okay,  
 it still really hurts...

He taps. </X/!> Duck <GASPS!>

87 DUCK  
 Well I'll be! *Shark!* Every time  
 ya rub your tummy, it makes the  
 sound of the letter X!

Shark taps once again, testing. </X/!>

88 SHARK  
 Hey! You're right!

Duck hops up, super excited!

89 DUCK  
 <GASP!> I think muh letter X is  
 inside your tummy! And it's giving  
 ya that tummy ache!

90 SHARK  
<GASP!>

91 DUCK  
If only we had Frog's X-Ray... we'd  
know for sure! It can see inside  
your tummy...  
(REALIZING)  
But we can't build his X-Ray! We  
don't have a letter X! QUACK!

ANGLE to include Ant and Pig listening in.

92 PIG  
Well, you can borrow one of ours.  
We've got lots, just take one!

Pig pulls an X from a BIN filled with them, and hands it  
to Duck. Duck alights! And flutters into the air!

93 DUCK  
Hoo and Ray! Thanks, Pig! Quack  
quack! Come on Shark! Let's get  
this X ta Frog and build an X-Ray!

He flies off! Shark hops after him... SFX: </X!/> </X!/>  
</X!/>... As we...

WIPE TO:

# **INT. FROG'S LOG - LIVING ROOM**

ON FROG - touching his X-RAY blueprints, longingly...

94 FROG  
<Sad Sigh...>

When suddenly: Duck and Shark BARREL on in.

95 DUCK  
Frog! FROG! We got a letter X!

96 FROG  
Hurray! Now we can build my X-Ray!

97 DUCK  
Yup! And use it right away on  
Shark! We think he swallowed MY  
letter X! Listen...

98 SHARK  
<Groans> Oh... my tummy!

Shark taps his tummy. And sure enough: </X!/>

**99** FROG  
RIBBIT! What are we waiting for?

<THWIP!> Frog tongue-lassos in the letters R-A-Y.

**100** FROG  
Okay, here are the letters R-A-Y  
for the word RAY. But to make it  
an X-Ray we need the letter X!

He takes the X from Duck, who BEAMS!

**101** DUCK  
It's time to...

SFX: "BUILD A WORD" song comes up.

**102** ALL  
Build a word!

As everyone dances, Frog drops the letter X to the screen  
right of the assembled letters R-A-Y...

**103** ALL (CONT'D)  
It's time to build a word - let's  
build it, let's build it now!

ON letters - they slide together as Frog speaks:

**104** FROG  
X and Ray, X... ray...

The letters come together morphing into an X-RAY MACHINE.

**105** KIDS (V.O.)  
X-RAY!

**106** ALL  
Yeah, we just built a word! We  
built it! We built it!

**107** DUCK  
An X-Ray! Let's use it to look  
inside Shark's tummy!

ON SHARK: Frog slides the machine in front of him. On  
its screen, we see a "lined-up" x-ray view of his tummy.

**108** SHARK  
See anything you like?

**109** FROG  
I'll say! Ribbit!

CU ON SCREEN - Push in to HIGHLIGHT:

110 DUCK  
Muh letter X! There it is!

Duck runs up to the screen, and points to the X in Shark's stomach.

111 DUCK  
X marks the spot!  
(Jumps for joy)  
Hoo and X-Ray! It worked!

Duck flies up to Shark's mouth.

112 DUCK  
Open wide, Shark. And don't worry,  
I'm a *Ducktor*!

113 FROG  
(Wryly to CAM)  
He looks more like a quack to me!

Shark opens wide. Duck dives and reaches inside --  
RAPIDLY pulling out... a fishing rod! A license plate!  
Fuzzy dice! Toy choo choo train! Etc.!

114 DUCK (SEARCH WALLA)  
Oo, not that! Nope! That's not it!  
Oops! Quack! In here somewhere!

115 SHARK  
<GARBLED> Murphleurphle!

116 DUCK  
Just a moment, Shark! AHA! I got  
it...

... and finally, HIS LETTER X!

117 DUCK  
Muh letter X! Quack! Good as new!

Duck gives his X a double, celebratory tap: </X/!> </X/!>

118 SHARK  
Thanks, Duck! And my tummy ache is  
all gone, too!

Shark taps his tummy. Yup, no sound of a letter inside!

119 ALL  
Whoohoo!! Yea! Hurray!

Duck deposits his X beside the X in the X-Ray Machine.

120 DUCK

Ha! After the hard time we had  
finding one letter X... now we have  
two! Quack quack.

Frog hops to them, holding something behind his back.

121 FROG

Ahem. That's not all you have!  
Don't forget! Every time you go to  
the doctor, you get...

Frog SMILES and whips out from behind his back...

122 FROG

LOLLIPOPS!

123 DUCK/SHARK

Hahaha! Hurray! Woohoo! Yummy!  
Purple lollipops my favorite!

Frog hands out the lollipops; all lick and laugh as  
CAMERA pulls away and SETTLES on the X-RAY MACHINE...

124 NARRATOR

Yes, the letter X is all around,  
everywhere you look, but sometimes,  
just sometimes, it takes an X to  
find an X... an X-ray!

The letter X SCALES and SOUNDS -- /x/! -- as the narrator  
closes us out...

125 NARRATOR

The End.

IRIS OUT.