

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 120 • SOUND OF OW AS IN HOW (/aʊ/) & CARRIE SHAW RICE

12 OW WORDS • CARRIE SHAW RICE

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 65

Vocalic Diphthong • Unmarked ow (/aʊ/) • Classic Nature Couplet

"Oh, were you ever in Drowsy Town, / Just when the dusk was dropping down?" — CARRIE SHAW RICE

Wheeler's 12 Core Words:
how • town • frown • brow • howl • down • crown • plow • scowl • brown • crowd • drown

CONCEPT

1

12-Word Diphthong <ow> Orthographic Matrix

Copy the 12 target words in 4 balanced columns, underlining the **ow** diphthong in each word:

how • town • frown

brow • howl • down

crown • plow • scowl

brown • crowd • drown

2

Carrie Shaw Rice Poetic Couplet Copywork

Transcribe Carrie Shaw Rice's classic couplet with elegant handwriting, proper capitalization, and question mark:

3

Contrast Diphthong Challenge • OI vs. OW

Fill in each blank with the correct word from Lesson 119 (soil) or Lesson 120 (plow, brown):

1. The farmer used his sharp iron _____ to turn over the rich black _____.

2. The little _____ sparrow hopped on the branch without making a sound.

WHEELER'S ORTHOGRAPHY RULES • DIPHTHONG OW

1. 1. Sound of **as** /aʊ/: Digraph **ow** represents the diphthong /aʊ/ in *town, plow, brown, crown* (contrast with long *ōw* in *snow, blow*).

2. 2. Terminal Diphthong Position: When the diphthong /aʊ/ occurs at the end of a word, English writes **ow** (*how, brow, cow, now, plow*) rather than *ou*.

3. 3. Poetic Question Mark: Carrie Shaw Rice's couplet begins with the interrogative verb *were you*, requiring an interrogation point (?) at the end of line 2.

LESSON 120 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

LESSON 120 • TEACHER MASTER KEY

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 65

TARGET WORD	PRONUNCIATION	RIME / ROOT	ORTHOEPIC TEACHING POINT
how	/haʊ/	Old English <i>hū</i> • Word-final <i>ow</i>	Terminal position writes -ow (never *-ou)
town	/taʊn/	-own rime • Old English <i>tūn</i>	Diphthong before -n; rhymes with <i>down</i> , <i>brown</i>
plow	/plaʊ/	Old English <i>plōh</i> • British <i>plough</i>	American spelling uses simplified -ow
crowd	/kraʊd/	-owd coda • Old English <i>crūdan</i>	Consonant blend <i>cr-</i> + diphthong /aʊ/

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 1 (Matrix Copywork): All 12 words transcribed with diphthong *ow* underlined.

Exercise 2 (Poetic Couplet):
Verbatim copy:
"Oh, were you ever in Drowsy Town,
Just when the dusk was dropping down?"
[Capital 'Drowsy Town'; question mark at end.]

Exercise 3 (Context Fill):
1. **plow** • **soil**.
2. **brown**.

Orthoepy Note: Contrast diphthong *ow* (/aʊ/) with vowel digraph *ōw* (/oʊ/) in *blow*, *grow*, *snow* from Lesson 69.

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Say 'snow' and 'how'. How is the sound of 'ow' completely different in these two words?
- Look at 'Drowsy Town' in Carrie Shaw Rice's poem. Why are both words capitalized?
- What farm tool ends with 'ow' and rhymes with 'how' and 'cow'?

DICTATION & ORAL APPLICATION SENTENCES (READ SLOWLY AT NORMAL SPEAKING PACE):

- The busy market town was filled with a large crowd of cheerful people.
- The wise old farmer used his sturdy oxen to plow the rich garden soil.
- Do not scowl or frown when gentle evening shadows fall over the town.
- Carrie Shaw Rice wrote a sweet bedtime poem about quiet Drowsy Town.