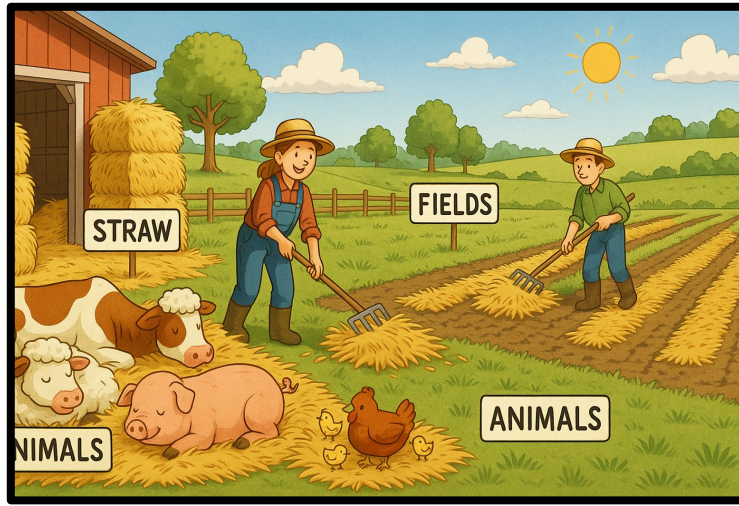


Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: Both au & aw

"This story focuses on the 'aw' and 'au' sounds, like in 'straw' and 'cause.' Watch for words like 'straw,' 'cause,' and 'draw' as you read!"



How Straw Helps on the Farm

Straw is a useful material found on many farms. Farmers use straw to cover the ground and keep plants warm.

Animals like cows and horses sleep on soft beds made of straw. It keeps them cozy and dry.

Straw also helps stop soil from washing away when it rains. Farmers spread it across fields to protect the land.

So, the next time you see a big stack of straw, remember—it's not just for fun. It helps plants grow and keeps animals comfortable!

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

straw

cause

draw

haul

Shawn



Name: _____

How Straw Helps on the Farm

1. How does straw help animals?

- A. It gives them food
- B. It keeps them cozy and dry
- C. It helps them climb higher
- D. It makes their water cleaner

2. What do farmers do with straw when it rains?

- A. They pile it up in barns
- B. They spread it across fields to protect the land
- C. They throw it away
- D. They hide it under the ground

3. Fill in the blank:

Farmers spread straw across fields to protect the _____.

4. Why do you think farmers use straw to keep plants warm?

5. How do you think life on a farm would be different without straw?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: Long Vowel Teams 'aw' and 'au'

Genre: Nonfiction – Farm Life

High-Frequency Words: the, and, to, they, their

Before Reading

1. Remind them of the target skill: "We're reading to find 'aw' and 'au' words that say the /aw/ sound, like in 'straw' and 'cause.'"
 2. Have you ever seen big stacks of straw on a farm or at a festival?
 3. What do you think would happen if animals didn't have soft places to sleep?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Remind kids that both 'aw' and 'au' make the /aw/ sound. Try that sound first when sounding out tricky words.
 2. Watch for 'aw' and 'au' words and stretch them out clearly.
 3. How does straw help the land when it rains?
 4. Try reading the last sentence like you're giving an important tip!
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After Reading

1. Can you retell the ways farmers use straw?
 2. Why do you think straw is helpful for both animals and plants?
 3. If you had a farm, what would you use straw for?
 4. Skill mastery prompt: "Find and underline 5 'aw' or 'au' words in the story!"
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Try reading the story again like you're teaching a class about life on a farm!
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Activity Idea

Draw a farm scene showing where straw is used—for animals, plants, and fields. Label at least three places using 'aw' or 'au' words. Write a sentence explaining how straw helps keep the farm healthy and clean.

Coaching Tip

Help readers make real-world connections by thinking about how farms use everyday materials to solve problems.

