

## **The Mighty Whale Puts Waves To Work**

Continuing with our study of ambiguous vowels in multi-syllabic words, we next look at the spelling for the /ô/ sound. Have students scan the first paragraph of the article for a word that contains this sound. The students will locate the word launched. Elicit from students that the base word is launch. Ask them if they know a different way the /ô/ is spelled. Students may offer *aw*. Then present students with the following sort to help them understand when /ô/ is spelled *au* (usually closed syllable) and when *aw* is the correct choice (usually open syllable).

launch	withdraw
applaud	gawky
because	macaw
faulty	thawing
jaundice	drawing
laundry	lawsuit
exhaust	Hawthorne
cauldron	

### **Slap It!**

#### **2 Players**

Have students write all the words studied in the first four articles on cards so that each student has a large deck. It is helpful for students to make their own decks as this not only saves you time, but it reinforces the correct spelling of the words. Have pairs of students turn over their cards. If the cards both contain the same type of syllable (open or closed) for the ambiguous vowel, students race to “slap the cards.” The students take the pile and put it aside if they win. If the cards do not contain the same type of syllable, turn over the next card. After the deck is all played, students count the cards. Then partners must correctly spell the words on their partner’s winning cards!

This game reinforces the importance of recognizing open and closed syllables and serves as a spelling review.