WHAT IS THIS?

Clue #1: Fill in the Blank

Clue #2: Color the Reindeer

Clue #3: Food Sort

Clue #4: The Presents

Clue #5: Picture Decoder

solve the mystery

The Case of the Missing Santa

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

The North Pole

As you solve each clue, cross out the places that Santa is not located at. The place left at the end will reveal Santa's location!

REINDEER STABLES

ELF VILLAGE

POLAR BEAR ORPHANAGE

NORTH POLE CAFE

SANTA'S HOUSE

SLEIGH GARAGE

GINGERBREAD HOUSE

TOY FACTORY

Name:

Students complete a series of clues to figure out where Santa is!

HOW TO PLAY

What Happened?

Oh no! SANTA IS MISSING!! It's your job to figure out where he is. Solve the clues to figure out where Santa is and solve the mystery!

1. Take a location list and then start solving each clue.
2. Each time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering where Santa is.
3. Cross out wrong places each time you find out new information. Good luck!

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Clue #1: Fill in the Blank

full 8x4	and 7x5	reindeer 7x8	someone 5x6	by 7x7	it 9x4
garage 9x10	village 10x10	you 8x5	the 8x6	sleigh 9x9	bear 4x4
toy 6x3	empty 10x6	Santa 9x5	elf 6x7	stopped 5x4	was 5x3

Answer	Word	Answer	Word	Answer	Word
(4x5)+(4x5) 8x5	you	(2x6)+(6x6) 8x6	the	(4x4)+(5x4) 9x4	it
(3x4)+(2x4) 5x4	stopped	(3x10)+(6x10) 9x10	garage	(2x3)+(3x3) 5x3	was
(1x7)+(6x7) 7x7	by	(1x5)+(6x5) 7x5	and	(5x6)+(5x6) 10x6	empty

Solve each problem. Write the answer. Then, write the word that goes with it. When you are done, read the words in order from top to bottom ↓ in each row to figure out the clue.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

The North Pole

As you solve each clue, cross out the places that Santa is not located at. The place left at the end will reveal Santa's location!

REINDEER STABLES

ELF VILLAGE

POLAR BEAR ORPHANAGE

NORTH POLE CAFE

SANTA'S HOUSE

SLEIGH GARAGE

GINGERBREAD HOUSE

TOY FACTORY

Name:

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Each time students solve a clue, it will reveal what place to cross out.

When all clues are completed, "The Mystery of the Missing Santa" will be solved!

SKILL PRACTICE

Clue #1: Fill in the Blank

full	and	reindeer	someone	by	it
8x4	7x5	7x8	5x6	7x7	9x4

garage	village				bear
9x10	10x10			sleigh	

toy	empty				
6x3	10x6				

Answer: Word:

(4x5)+(4x5)   8x5   you

(3x4)+(2x4)   5x4   stopped

(1x7)+(6x7)   7x7   by

Solve each problem. Write the answer words in order from top to bottom ↓

Clue #2: Color the Reindeer

Solve each question. Circle the right answer and color in the picture. Then read the bottom.

2 x 6
A. 8 – orange star
B. 10 – pink star
C. 12 – yellow star
D. 18 – brown star

9 x 3
A. 12 – purple tree
B. 18 – blue tree
C. 21 – pink tree
D. 27 – green tree

7 x 5
A. 35 – black antlers
B. 30 – brown antlers
C. 42 – yellow antlers
D. 45 – purple antlers

8 x 8
A. 54 – red ornaments
B. 56 – blue ornaments
C. 62 – black ornaments
D. 64 – purple ornaments

10 x 4
A. 14 – pink body
B. 40 – brown body
C. 45 – orange body
D. 50 – green body

6 x 5
A. 20 – black nose
B. 25 – blue nose
C. 30 – red nose
D. 40 – brown nose

Choose the key below that matches how you colored the picture of the reindeer.

Cross out places with food if the reindeer picture has:
- Yellow star
- Green tree
- Brown antlers
- Blue ornaments
- orange body
- Red nose

Cross out Santa's House if the reindeer picture has:
- Pink star
- Blue tree
- Black antlers
- Purple ornaments
- Brown body
- Red nose

Cross out the Elf Village if the reindeer picture has:
- Yellow star
- Green tree
- Black antlers
- Purple ornaments
- Pink body
- Black nose

Cross out places with animals if the reindeer picture has:
- Yellow star
- Green tree
- Black antlers
- Purple ornaments
- Brown body
- Red nose

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Clue #3: Food Sort

...out each answer. Write it next to each milk. Color the cookies the same color as the plate they belong on.

...6 = **300**

60 x 6 = **360**

3 x 80 = **240**

30 x 10 = **300**

...6 = **240**

40 x 3 = **120**

300

9 x 40 = **360**

...the phrase to know what to cross out.

- 3 brown cookies
- 3 green cookies
- 2 red cookies
- 4 yellow cookies

You go to the café and they said Santa hasn't bought hot cocoa today.

Skills

- Multiplication Facts
- Multiplication & Division Word Problems
- Missing Factors
- Distributive Property
- Multiply by Tens
- Christmas-Themed
- Error Analysis Practice

All clues focus on reviewing 3rd grade math skills!

MULTIPLE VERSIONS

Print & Digital Forms

Clue #1: Fill in the Blank

	full		and		reindeer		someone		by		it
8x4		7x5		7x8		5x6		7x7		9x4	
	garage		village		you		the		sleigh		bear
9x10		10x10		8x5		8x6		9x9		4x4	
	toy		empty		Santa		elf		stopped		was
6x3		10x6		9x5		6x7		5x4		5x3	

Clue #2: Color the Reindeer
Solve each question. Circle the right answer

Clue #3: Food Sort
Figure out each answer. Write it next to each milk. Color the cookies the same color as the plate they belong on.

120 brown

3 Clue Version

240 green

50x6= 300   60x6= 360   3x80= 240   30x10= 300

300 red

360 yellow

Clue #4: The Presents
First, write the answer on each Christmas present. Then, read what to do in the box at the bottom.

- 3 brown cookies
- 3 green cookies
- 3 red cookies
- 3 yellow cookies

The elves said they haven't seen him in the village.

- 3 brown cookies
- 3 green cookies
- 4 red cookies
- 2 yellow cookies

The toy factory said no one with a red hat has been inside.

- 4 brown cookies
- 3 green cookies
- 2 red cookies
- 3 yellow cookies

There are no footprints in the snow leading to the Gingerbread House.

- 3 brown cookies
- 3 green cookies
- 2 red cookies
- 4 yellow cookies

You go to the café and they said Santa hasn't bought hot cocoa today.

Clue #5: Picture Decoder
Find each answer. Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

5 Clue Version

Answers:

Letters:

You knock on the door and Mrs. Claus said Santa's...

Use this decoder to help you figure out what letter is equal to each picture.

Clue #1: Fill in the Blank

		(4x5)+(4x5)		(2x6)+(6x6)		(4x4)+(5x4)	
Answer:	Word:	8x5	you	8x6	the	9x4	
		(3x4)+(2x4)		(3x10)+(6x10)		(2x3)+(3x3)	
		5x4	stopped	9x10	garage	5x3	
		(1x7)+(6x7)		(1x5)+(6x5)		(5x6)+(5x6)	
		7x7	by	7x5	and	10x6	

Solve each problem. Write the answer. Then, write the word that goes with it. When you are done, read the words in order from top to bottom in each row to figure out the clue.

Short & Long Options

2 MATH FACT OPTIONS!

The North Pole

As you solve each clue, cross out the places that Santa is not located at. The place left at the end will reveal Santa's location!

REINDEER STABLES

POLAR BEAR ORPHANAGE

ELF VILLAGE

NORTH POLE CAFÉ

SANTA'S HOUSE

SLEIGH GARAGE

GINGERBREAD HOUSE

TOY FACTORY

Name:

Clue #1: Fill in the Blank

full	and	reindeer	someone	by
15	6	8	3	10	13
garage	village	you	the	sleigh
18	4	14	12	7	19
toy	empty	Santa	elf	stopped
20	19	17	2	5

7+7=   4+8=   7+6=

6+3=   8+10=

8+2=   2+3=

Clue #2: Color the Reindeer

Solve each question. Circle the right answer and color in the picture. Then read the bottom.

14-5   18-7   20-7

A. 4 – orange star   A. 5 – purple tree   A. 13 – black antlers
B. 10 – pink star   B. 10 – blue tree   B. 7 – brown antlers
C. 9 – yellow star   C. 4 – pink tree   C. 17 – yellow antlers
D. 14 – brown star   D. 8 – green tree   D. 12 – purple antlers

14-1   12-8   19-3

A. 12 – red ornaments   A. 3 – pink body   A. 6 – black nose
B. 14 – blue ornaments B. 4 – brown body   B. 12 – blue nose
C. 20 – black ornaments C. 5 – orange body   C. 16 – red nose

Clue #3: Food Sort

Figure out each answer. Write it next to each milk. Color the cookies the same color as the plate they belong on.

12-4   16-9   17-8   10-2
18-9   20-10   11-2   15-5
10-3   13-3   15-7   12-5

Which box below is true based on what you colored? Circle the box and read the phrase to know what to cross out.

Clue #4: The Presents

First, write the answer on each Christmas present. Then, read what to do in the box at the bottom.

42÷7   90÷10   24÷6   12÷6   18÷6   54÷6
G   C   A   P   F   I

70÷7   48÷6   5÷5   40÷8   30÷5   21÷3
O   E   N   O   G   D

Cross out the boxes with these answers:
1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9
The letters that are left will reveal a message.

Santa is not around any

Clue #5: Picture Decoder

Find each answer. Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

72   28   10   30   32   15   24   20   63

Answers:
6x5   3x8   9x8   7x4   10x2   9x7   2x5   4x8   5x3

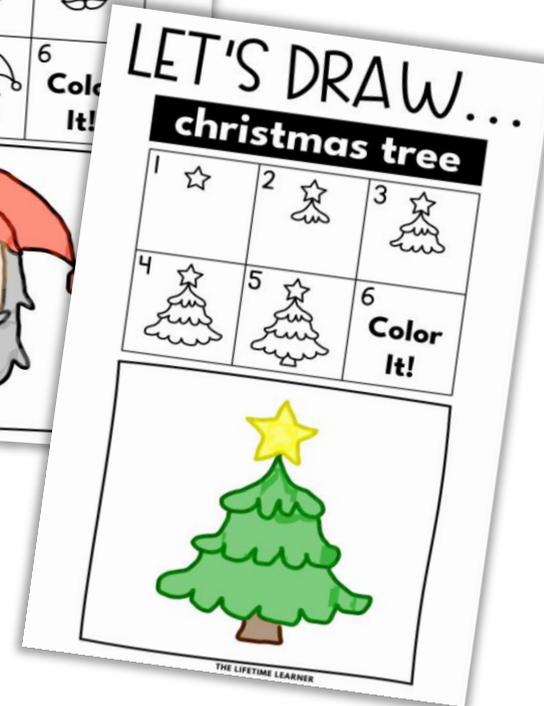Letters:

You knock on the door and Mrs. Claus said Santa's....

Use this decoder to help you figure out what letter is equal to each picture.

Same clues. Same mystery. Different math!

Use the add/subtract facts to 20 mystery or the multiplication/division facts 1-12 mystery!

FAST FINISHER ACTIVITY

The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:

Lindsay

You solved the mystery!

11/2   AW

Date   Presented by:

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

LET'S DRAW...
a Santa Claus

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Color It! |

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

LET'S DRAW...
christmas tree

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Color It! |

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

If students finish early, give them a **certificate of completion** and a **directed drawing** to complete while others continue working.

MATH MYSTERY BENEFITS

- No Prep
- Print and Digital Versions
- 3 & 5 Clue Options
- Extra Math Facts Mystery
- Fun and Engaging
- Easy to Differentiate
- Encourages Critical Thinking
- Aligns with Math Standards
- Perfect for Review Days

In 3rd grade, this works well in small groups or in partners.

Clue #4: The Presents

First, write the answer on each Christmas present.
Then, read what to do in the box at the bottom.

I have 3 presents. Each present has 7 bows. How many bows do they have in all?
G 21 24

There are 45 reindeer. They are split between 5 barns. How many reindeer are in each barn?
C 9 8

There are 8 gingerbread men and each has 3 gumdrop buttons. How many buttons do they have in all?
A 24 32

I have 10 candy canes. Each candy cane has 6 stripes. How many stripes are there in all?
P 60 56

Santa has 45 presents to give to 9 children. How many presents does each child get?
F 5

There are 49 elves. They are split between toy factories. How many elves are in each toy factory?
I 7 9

There are 6 reindeer. Each wants 4 carrots. How many carrots do you need in all?
O 24

There are 90 Christmas lights. They are split between 10 trees. How many lights are on each tree?
E 9 10

I have 3 cups of hot chocolate. Each has 5 marshmallows. How many marshmallows do I have in all?
N 15 12

There are 8 Christmas wreathes. Each has 7 bows. How many bows are there in all?
O 56

There are 42 toys. Each elf made 6 of them. How many elves are there in total?
G 7 6

I have 72 presents. They are split between 9 of my friends. How many presents did each friend get?
D 8

Cross out the boxes with:
wrong answers
The letters that are left will reveal a message.

Santa is not around any
FOOD _____.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

WHY TEACHERS LOVE THESE!

Ordinary math worksheets can be boring and unoriginal.

You want activities that are fun and engaging, but also rigorous and meaningful to student learning.

MATH MYSTERIES ARE EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

WHAT MAKES MATH MYSTERIES UNIQUE?

Math Mysteries aren't just a copy of Reading Mysteries!

They have brand-new clues, focus on math skills, and even feature a different conclusion to the mystery.

The only thing that stays the same is the list of suspects students start with!

So, if you have both, students can play during math and then again during reading for double the fun.

Reading
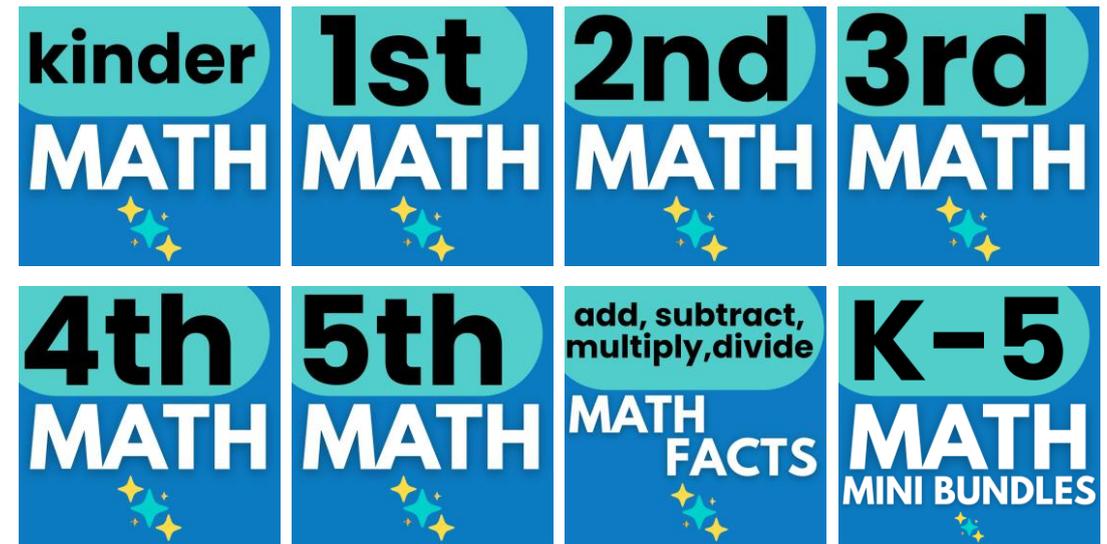
Example of Clue 1

Math

KEEP THE FUN GOING!

GRAB A READING MYSTERY:

Reading mysteries aren't just a copy of math. They come with fresh clues, unique reading challenges, and a new culprit, so students are solving an entirely different case!

CVC WORDS
kinder PHONICS
1st PHONICS
2nd PHONICS

GRADES 2-3 GRAMMAR
PARTS OF SPEECH REVIEWS
GRADES 4-5 GRAMMAR

EXPLORE 30 UNIQUE MYSTERIES

MORE MATH MYSTERIES:

Explore other grade levels to differentiate and keep every student engaged.

kinder MATH
1st MATH
2nd MATH
3rd MATH

4th MATH
5th MATH
add, subtract, multiply, divide MATH FACTS
K-5 MATH MINI BUNDLES

BUY A BUNDLE TO SAVE BIG!

MATH MYSTERIES 3RD GRADE
30 THEMES
The Suspect List
Dragon Fairy Gnome Unicorn
Wizard Monster Witch Troll
THE BUNDLE