

# WHAT IS THIS?

**Clue #1: Picture Decoder**  
Write the answer on each line. Then, draw a line to each match.  
Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

**Clue #2: Which is Bigger?**  
Which place in the theme park has a larger area? Cross that place out on your list.

**Clue #3: Color the Sodas**

**Clue #4: Circle It!**  
Solve each question. Circle the boxes that equal 54.  
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

**Clue #5: Descrambler**  
Solve each box. Then, read what to do at the bottom.

**solve the mystery**  
The Case of the Missing Cotton Candy

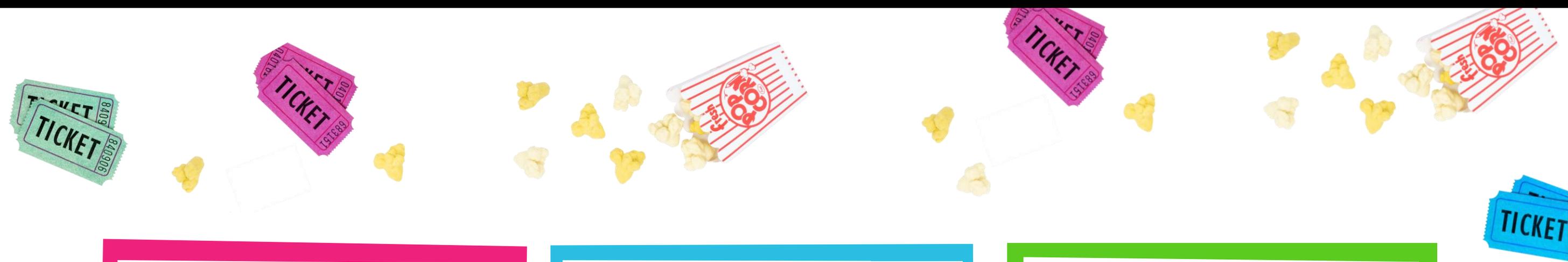
**Where's the Cotton Candy?**

<del>Roller Coaster</del>	<del>Ball Toss</del>	<del>Popcorn Cart</del>	<del>Ticket Booth</del>
<del>Pirate Ship</del>	<del>Merry-Go-Round</del>	<del>Ferris Wheel</del>	<b>Bumper Cars</b>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Students complete a series of clues to figure out where the cotton candy is!

# HOW TO PLAY



## What Happened?

Oh no! You accidentally left your cotton candy somewhere in the theme park and can't find it. Now, it's your job to search the park and find out where it is. Solve each clue to figure out the mystery. Every time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering where the cotton candy is! Good luck!

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



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## Clue #1: Picture Decoder

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



6    10    3    8    23    14    9    20    17

Answers: 8   9   23   6   17   3   20   10   14

Letters: N   O   A   N   I   M   A   L   S

The cotton candy is somewhere with:



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

A =	G =	M =	S =	Y =
B =	H =	N =	T =	Z =
C =	I =	O =	U =	
D =	J =	P =	V =	
E =	K =	Q =	W =	
F =	L =	R =	X =	

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## Where's the Cotton Candy?

Roller Coaster	Ball Toss	Popcorn Cart	Ticket Booth
Pirate Ship	Merry-Go-Round	Ferris Wheel	Bumper Cars

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Each time students solve a clue, it will reveal what place(s) to cross out.  
When all clues are completed, the mystery of the cotton candy will be solved!

# SKILL PRACTICE

**Clue #1: Picture Decoder**  
Write the answer on each line. Then, draw a line to each match.  
Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

6 10 3

Answers: 8 9 2

Letters: N O

The cotton candy is somewhere with:

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

**Clue #2: Which is Bigger?**  
Which place in the theme park has a larger area? Cross that place out on your list.

$5 \times 3 = 15$   
 $15 + 12 = 27$

$4 \times 3 = 12$   
 $3 \times 10 = 30$   
 $30 + 12 = 42$

Cross out the place with the bigger area.

**Clue 3: Color the Sodas**

A. 36-color soda red  
B. 21-color soda blue  
C. 42-color soda green  
D. 38-color soda yellow

your next hint!

- 1 red sodas
- 0 blue sodas
- 1 green sodas
- 2 yellow sodas

Cross out places that sell tickets.

- Rectilinear Area
- Area of Composite Figures
- Theme Park-Themed
- Error Analysis Practice

All clues focus on reviewing 3<sup>rd</sup> grade skills!

# MULTIPLE VERSIONS



**Clue #1: Picture Decoder**  
Write the answer on each line. Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

**Clue #2: Which is Bigger?**  
Which place in the theme park has a larger area? Cross that place out on your list.

**Clue 3: Color the Sodas**

**3 Clue Version**

A. 64-color soda  
B. 24-color soda  
C. 16-color soda  
D. 18-color soda

Color soda red  
Color soda blue  
Color soda green  
Color soda yellow

- 0 red sodas
- 1 blue sodas
- 2 green sodas
- 1 yellow sodas

Cross out places that do not spin.

- 2 red sodas
- 1 blue sodas
- 0 green sodas
- 1 yellow sodas

Cross out places that have food.

- 1 red sodas
- 0 blue bowls
- 2 green sodas
- 1 yellow sodas

Cross out places that are not rides.

- 1 red sodas
- 0 blue sodas
- 1 green sodas
- 2 yellow sodas

Cross out places that sell tickets.

**Clue #1: Picture Decoder**  
Write the answer on each line. Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

**Clue #2: Which is Bigger?**  
Which place in the theme park has a larger area? Cross that place out on your list.

**Clue 3: Color the Sodas**

**Clue #4: Circle It!**  
Solve each question. Circle the boxes that equal 54. Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

**Clue #5: Descrambler**  
Solve each box. Then, read what to do at the bottom.

**5 Clue Version**

swing back and forth    go in a circle    control it

Circle the box with the smallest area. Write the words on the line.  
The cotton candy is at a ride where you can:  
**control it**

## Print & Digital Forms

**Clue #2: Which is Bigger?**  
Which place in the theme park has a larger area? Cross that place out on your list.

$5 \times 3 = 15$

$15 + 12 = 27$

$4 \times 3 = 12$

$3 \times 10 = 30$

$6 \times 2 = 12$

Cross out the place with the bigger area.

**Clue #2: Which is Bigger?**  
Which place in the theme park has a larger area? Cross that place out on your list.

Cross out the place with the bigger area.

## Short & Long Options

# 2 MATH FACT OPTIONS!

### Where's the Cotton Candy?

<del></del> Roller Coaster	<del></del> Ball Toss	<del></del> Popcorn Cart	<del></del> Ticket Booth
<del></del> Pirate Ship	<del></del> Merry-Go-Round	<del></del> Ferris Wheel	 Bumper Cars

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Clue #1: Picture Decoder

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

Answers:  $13$   $14$   $11$   $16$   $4$   $17$   $10$   $19$   
 $5 \times 8$   $12 \div 2$   $4 \times 7$   $10 \div 6$   $1 \div 3$   $9 \times 8$   $5 \times 5$   $3 \times 6$

Letters: N O A N I M A

The cotton candy is somewhere with: \_\_\_\_\_  
Use this decoder to help you figure out what letter is equal to each picture.

### Clue #2: Error Analysis

Check the answers for each location. Put a check or an X next to each answer.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $9 - 6 = 12$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $9 - 1 = 10$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $8 - 3 = 15$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $11 - 2 = 9$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $3 - 4 = 8$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $11 - 7 = 4$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $8 - 4 = 5$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $15 - 6 = 9$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $19 - 10 = 9$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $17 - 3 = 14$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $1 - 1 = 2$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $11 - 2 = 8$

### Clue #3: Detective Report

The theme park is my favorite place to go, and I've been there  $6 + 12$  18 times. Today, I went there with  $2 + 7$  9 friends. First, we went to the ticket booth and got  $10 + 9$  19 ride tickets. Then, we went on the fastest rollercoaster and screamed  $14 + 6$  20 times. We took a snack break and bought  $5 + 3$  8 popcorn buckets from the popcorn cart. Later, my friends and I went on the bumper cars and hit each other  $8 + 7$  15 times. Near the end of the day, we went on the Ferris wheel and stayed at the top for  $3 + 3$  6 minutes. I had such a great day at the fair, and I can't come back another  $1 + 4$  5 times. The cotton candy wasn't left in a place that is: \_\_\_\_\_

I=19 N=20  
O=16 E=8  
R=5  
T=18

### Clue #4: The Roller Coaster

Put the correct answer in each box. Then, read what to do at the bottom.

<del>K</del> $49 \div 7$	<del>X</del> $32 \div 8$	<del>X</del> $27 \div 3$	<del>X</del> $45 \div 9$
<del>X</del> $15 \div 5$	<del>X</del> $24 \div 3$	<del>X</del> $70 \div 7$	<del>X</del> $5 \div 5$
<del>X</del> $16 \div 8$	<del>X</del> $35 \div 7$	<del>X</del> $54 \div 9$	<del>X</del> $90 \div 10$

Cross out the boxes with the following answers: **1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 10**  
The letters that are left will reveal a message.

The cotton candy is somewhere near a ride that is NOT Fast.

### Clue #5: Descrambler

Solve each box. Then, read what to do at the bottom.

Place the correct letter on top of each matching answer.  
The cotton candy is at a ride where you can: CONTROL IT

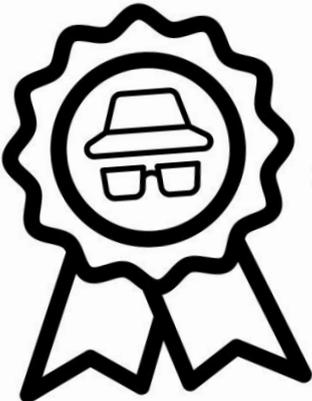
Same clues. Same mystery. Different math!

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*

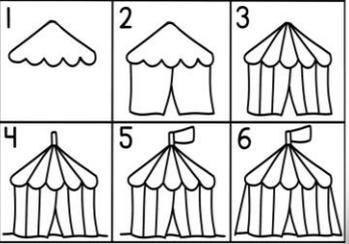
**You solved the mystery!**

*11/2* *AW*

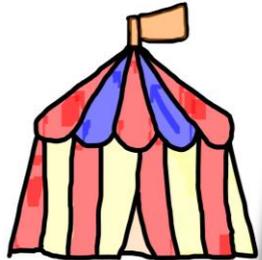
Date Presented by:

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

**LET'S DRAW...**  
**a carnival tent**

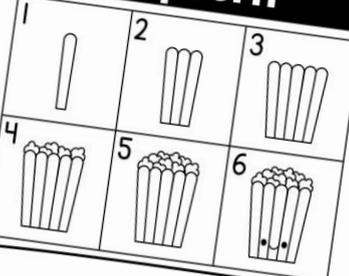


1 2 3  
4 5 6



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**LET'S DRAW...**  
**popcorn**



1 2 3  
4 5 6



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

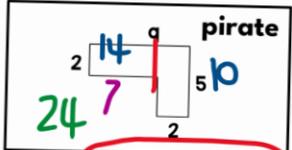
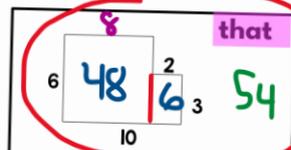
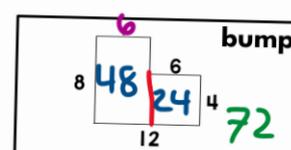
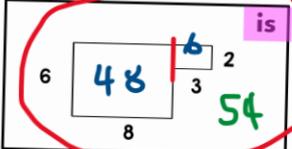
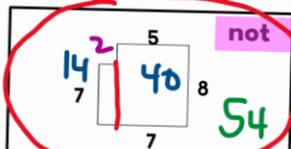
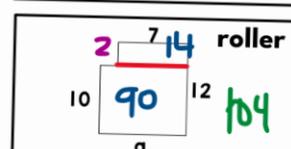
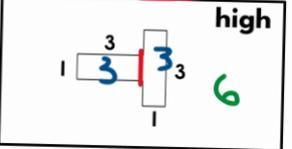
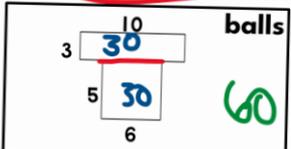
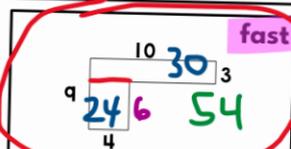
If students finish early, give them a certificate of completion and a directed drawing to complete while others continue working.

# 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

**Clue #4: Circle It!**

Solve each question. Circle the boxes that equal 54.  
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

The cotton candy is somewhere near a ride...

that is not fast

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, this works well in small groups or in partners.

# 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!

**Clue #1: Find It!**  
Solve each question. Circle the boxes that equal 15.  
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

**Clue #2: Which is Bigger?**  
Which place in the theme park has a larger area? Cross that place out on your list.

**Clue #3: Detective Report**  
The theme park is my favorite place to go, and I've been there  $6+6$  times. Today, I went there with  $12$ .

**Clue #4: The Roller Coaster**  
Put the correct answer in each box. Then, read what to do at the bottom.

**Clue #5: Descrambler**  
Solve each box. Then, read what to do at the bottom.

$\begin{array}{r} 2 \quad 7 \quad 14 \\ 4 \quad 12 \quad 26 \\ 3 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 4 \quad 28 \quad 31 \\ 7 \quad 3 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 4 \quad 2 \\ 3 \quad 12 \quad 10 \quad 5 \quad 22 \end{array}$
---	---	--

swing back and forth      go in a circle      control it

Circle the box with the smallest area. Write the words on the line.  
The cotton candy is at a ride where you can:  
control it

The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:

**Lindsay**

You solved the mystery!

11/2      AW

Date      Presented by:

LET'S DRAW...  
**a carnival tent**

LET'S DRAW...  
**popcorn**

Where's the Cotton Candy?

<del>Roller Coaster</del>	<del>Ball Toss</del>	<del>Popcorn Cart</del>	<del>Ticket Booth</del>
<del>Pirate Ship</del>	<del>Merry-Go-Round</del>	<del>Ferris Wheel</del>	Bumper Cars

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**solve the mystery**

The Case of the Missing Cotton Candy

# 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

Math

Example of Clue 1

### Clue #1: The Theme Park

Look at the dialogue for the Ferris Wheel and Ticket Booth. Circle the side that has quotation marks in the correct spot. If the Ferris Wheel has more circles, cross out any rides. If the Ticket Booth has more circles, cross out any places near food.

 "Wait for me!" said Olivia."	"Wait for me!" said Olivia.		 Jose laughed, "That spin made me dizzy."	Jose laughed, "That spin made me dizzy."	
 This ride is so "fast," replied Harper.			"I'm never riding that again," said Caleb.	"I'm never riding that again," said Caleb.	
 "Silas said, "Let's go again."	Silas said, "Let's go again."		 Can we get popcorn after?" asked Stella.	"Can we get popcorn after?" asked Stella.	
 "I dropped my hat!" cried Johnny.	"I dropped my hat!" cried Johnny.		 "Noah shouted, This is the best day ever."	Noah shouted, "This is the best day ever."	

### Clue #1: Picture Decoder

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

								
6	10	3	8	23	14	9	20	17
rs: 8	9	23	6	17	3	20	16	14
rs: N	O	A	N	I	M	A	L	S

The cotton candy is somewhere with:

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

A = 	G = 	M = 	S = 	Y = 
B = 	H = 	N = 	T = 	Z = 
C = 	I = 	O = 	U = 	
D = 	J = 	P = 	V = 	
E = 	K = 	Q = 	W = 	
F = 	L = 	R = 	X = 	

# 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!



## MORE **MATH MYSTERIES**:

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



BUY A BUNDLE  
TO **SAVE BIG!**

