

# WHAT IS THIS?

### Clue #1: Picture Decoder

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

### Clue #2: Error Analysis

Check each suspect's work. Put a check or an X next to each answer.

### Clue #3: Detective Report

I have  $850-635$  pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had  $391-167$  pencils in her desk. She told me that she had  $711-499$  more pencils at home. I only have  $327-123$  pencils at home. When  $205$  him  $592-31$  that she had pencils in her  $246$   $781-555$

### Clue #4: The School Bus

326+235	456+95	219+302	253+618	753+994	732+999
<del>X</del> 561	6651	<del>X</del> 521	<del>X</del> 871	147	<del>X</del> 731
230+541	364+227	537+118	137+613	256+533	245+445

### Clue #5: Picture Reveal

Look at the key at the bottom. Color each character above the fraction according to the key.

$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$
$\frac{3}{9}$	$\frac{2}{8}$	$\frac{5}{10}$	$\frac{4}{12}$	$\frac{3}{6}$	$\frac{9}{12}$
$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{12}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{6}{8}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{4}{8}$
$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{6}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{4}{16}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{4}$

**Key:**  
 Color the fractions equal to  $\frac{1}{4}$  green.  
 Color the fractions equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  blue.  
 Color the fractions equal to  $\frac{3}{4}$  red.  
 Color the fractions equal to  $\frac{1}{3}$  yellow.

**Which color do you see the most of?**

- Green: The culprit is not wearing blue.
- Blue: The culprit is not wearing a hat.
- Red: The culprit is wearing a hat.
- Yellow: The culprit is a girl.

## solve the mystery

### The Case of the Missing Pencil

### The Suspect List

As you solve each clue, cross out the kids who did not commit the crime. The kid left at the end is the culprit.

<p>I'm wearing yellow pants.</p> <p><b>Zara</b></p>	<p>I'm wearing a red shirt.</p> <p><b>Lexi</b></p>	<p>I'm wearing a green shirt.</p> <p><b>Asher</b></p>	<p>I have red shoes.</p> <p><b>Destiny</b></p>
<p>I'm wearing blue shoes.</p> <p><b>Eli</b></p>	<p>I'm wearing a green hair tie.</p> <p><b>Camila</b></p>	<p>I have yellow pants.</p> <p><b>Darius</b></p>	<p>I have a blue box.</p> <p><b>Nora</b></p>

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

Students complete a series of clues to figure out who took the missing pencil!

# HOW TO PLAY



## What Happened?

Oh no! You brought your new pencil to school today but it went missing while you were at recess. It's your job to find out who took the missing pencil.

1. Take a suspect list and then start solving each clue.
2. Each time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering who the culprit (thief) is!
3. Cross out wrong suspects each time you find out new information. Good luck!

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## Clue #1: Picture Decoder

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

48	15	36	81	72	12	60	64	30

Answers: 15 64 12 30 81 72 36 60 48

Letters: N O B O K B A G

The culprit has...

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 =	

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

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## The Suspect List

As you solve each clue, cross out the kids who did not commit the crime. The kid left at the end is the culprit.

<p>I'm wearing yellow pants.</p> <p><del>Zara</del></p>	<p>I'm wearing a red shirt.</p> <p><del>Lexi</del></p>	<p>I'm wearing a green shirt.</p> <p><del>Asher</del></p>	<p>I have red shoes.</p> <p><del>Destiny</del></p>
<p>I'm wearing blue shoes.</p> <p><del>Eli</del></p>	<p>I'm wearing a green hair.</p> <p><del>Camila</del></p>	<p>I have yellow pants.</p> <p><del>Darius</del></p>	<p>I have a blue bow.</p> <p><b>Nora</b></p>

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

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Each time students solve a clue, it will reveal which suspects to cross off. When all clues are completed, the mystery of the missing pencil will be solved!



# MULTIPLE VERSIONS



Print & Digital Forms

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

**Clue #2: Error Analysis**  
Check each suspect's work. Put a check or an X next to each answer.

**Clue #3: Detective Report**  
I have 850-635 pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had 391-167 pencils in her desk. She had 212 pencils at home. When I gave her 209 pencils, she told me that she had 781-555 pencils in her desk.

**3 Clue Version**

Solve each question. Write the answer above each equation. Then, use the decoder to figure out the message.

212	205	524	219	204	224	225	215	276	294	204=D	213=U
212	205	524	219	204	224	225	215	276	294	205=O	214=X
N	D	R	E	D	S	H	O	E	S	206=Y	215=O
										207=M	216=E
										208=C	217=T
										209=S	218=V

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

**Clue #2: Error Analysis**  
Check each suspect's work. Put a check or an X next to each answer.

**Clue #3: Detective Report**  
I have 850-635 pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had 391-167 pencils in her desk. She had 212 pencils at home. When I gave her 209 pencils, she told me that she had 781-555 pencils in her desk.

**Clue #4: The School Bus**  
Write the answer to each question in each box.

**Clue #5: Picture Reveal**  
Look at the key at the bottom. Color each character above the fraction according to the key.

**5 Clue Version**

Color the fractions equal to 1/4 green.  
Color the fractions equal to 1/2 blue.  
Color the fractions equal to 3/4 red.  
Color the fractions equal to 1/3 yellow.

Which color do you see the most of?  
• Green: The culprit is not wearing blue.  
• Blue: The culprit is not wearing a hat.  
• Red: The culprit is wearing a hat.  
• Yellow: The culprit is a girl.

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

48 15 36 81 72 12 60 64 30

Answers: 15 64 12 30 81 72 26 10 48

Letters: N O B O O K

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

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

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

48 15 36 81 72 12 60 64 30

Answers: 15

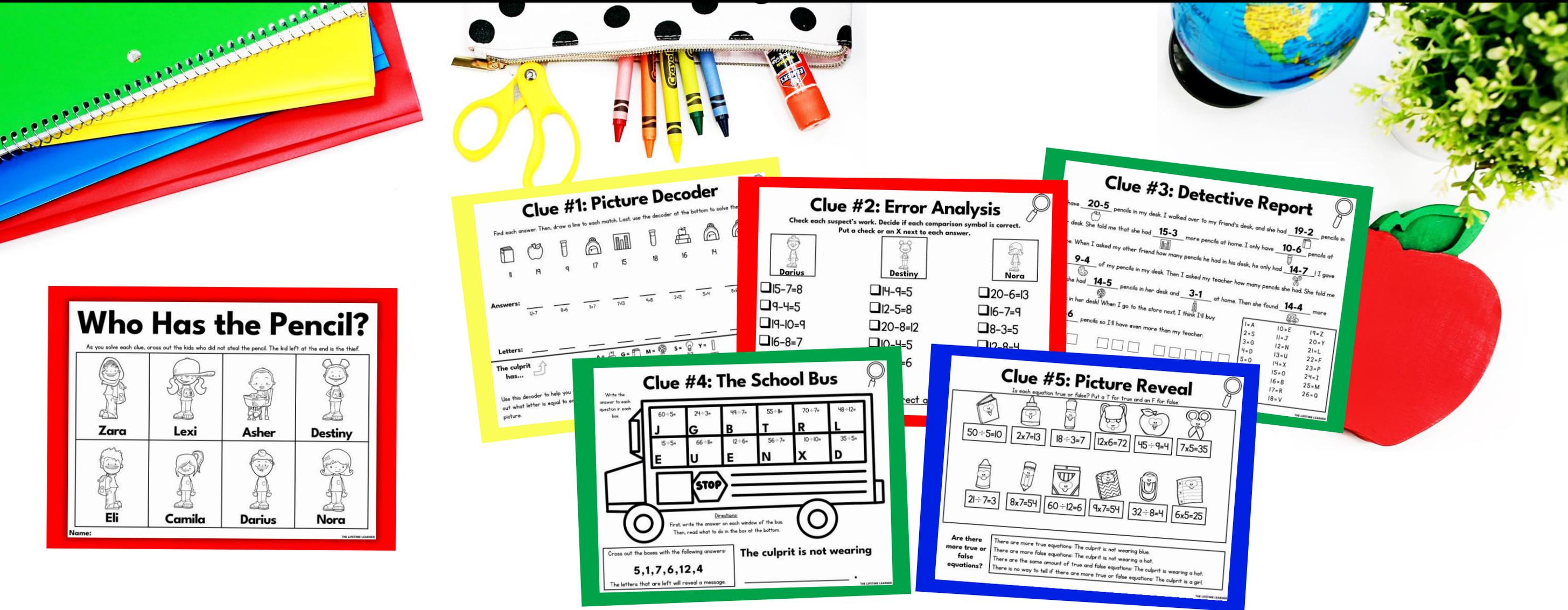
Letters: N

The culprit has...  
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 =	

Short & Long Options

# 2 MATH FACT OPTIONS!



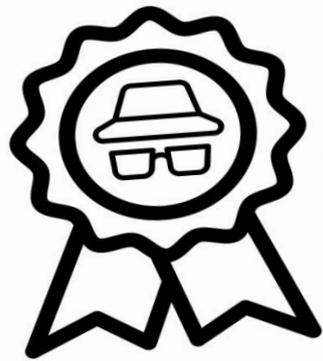
Same clues. Same mystery. Different math!

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:



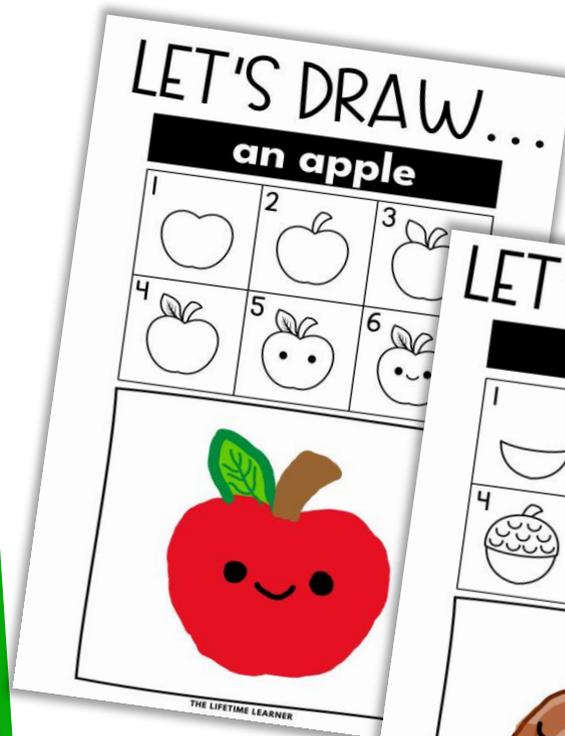
Lindsay

You solved the mystery!

11/2  
Date

Presented by:

AW



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: The School Bus**

Write the answer to each question in each box.

$326+235$ <del>X</del> 561 <b>G</b> 651 <del>X</del> 521 <del>X</del> 871 <b>R</b> 947 <del>X</del> 931
$230+541$ <b>E</b> 771 <del>X</del> 591 <b>E</b> 715 <b>N</b> 750 <del>X</del> 789 <del>X</del> 690

**STOP**

**Directions:**  
First, write the answer on each window of the bus.  
Then, read what to do in the box at the bottom.

Cross out the boxes with the following answers:  
**871, 690, 931, 521, 591, 561, 789**

The letters that are left will reveal a message.

**The culprit is not wearing**  
**green**

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

In 4<sup>th</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: Picture Decoder**

**Clue #2: Error Analysis**  
Check each suspect's work. Decide if each comparison symbol is correct. Put a check or an X next to each answer.

**Clue #3: Detective Report**  
I have  $\frac{215}{850-635}$  pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had  $\frac{324}{391-167}$  pencils in her desk.

**Clue #4: The School Bus**  
Write the answer to each question in each box.

326+235	456+195	219+302	253+618	753+194	732+199
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**Clue #5: Picture Reveal**  
Look at the key at the bottom. Color each character above the fraction according to the key.

$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{9}{12}$
$\frac{3}{9}$	$\frac{2}{8}$	$\frac{5}{10}$	$\frac{4}{12}$	$\frac{3}{6}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{9}{12}$
$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{12}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{6}{8}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{4}{8}$	$\frac{2}{4}$
$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{6}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{4}{16}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{4}$	

**Key:**  
Color the fractions equal to 1/4 green.  
Color the fractions equal to 1/2 blue.  
Color the fractions equal to 3/4 red.  
Color the fractions equal to 1/3 yellow.

**Which color do you see the most of?**

- Green: The culprit is not wearing a blue.
- Blue: The culprit is not wearing a hat.
- Red: The culprit is wearing a hat.
- Yellow: The culprit is a girl.

The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:



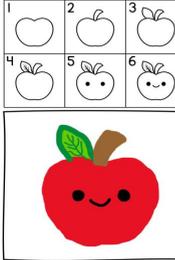
*Lindsay*

You solved the mystery!

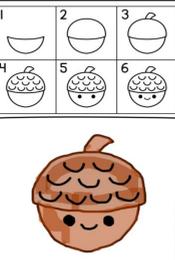
*11/2* *AW*

Date Presented by:

LET'S DRAW...  
an apple



LET'S DRAW...  
an acorn



**The Suspect List**  
As you solve each clue, cross out the kids who did not commit the crime. The kid left at the end is the culprit.

I'm wearing yellow pants. <b>Zara</b>	I'm wearing a red shirt. <b>Lexi</b>	I'm wearing a green shirt. <b>Asher</b>	I have red shoes. <b>Destiny</b>
I'm wearing blue shoes. <b>Eli</b>	I'm wearing a green hair tie. <b>Camila</b>	I have yellow pants. <b>Darius</b>	I have a blue bow. <b>Nora</b>

Name:

**solve the mystery**



**The Case of the Missing Pencil**

# 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

### Clue #1: Descrambler

Put the correct letter on top of each matching adjective at the bottom. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

The thief is not wearing...

Y E L L O W

An adjective to describe artwork on the wall. An adjective to describe your hands when using glue. An adjective to describe the pointed end of a pencil. An adjective to describe your water bottle. An adjective to describe a stack of books. An adjective to describe crumpled paper.

### Clue #1: Picture Decoder

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

48	15	36	81	72	12	60	64	30
$5 \times 3$	$8 \times 8$	$2 \times 6$	$10 \times 3$	$9 \times 9$	$6 \times 2$	$4 \times 9$	$6 \times 10$	$12 \times 4$
15	64	12	30	81	72	36	60	48

N O B O O K B A G

The culprit has...

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 =	

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

# KEEP THE FUN GOING!

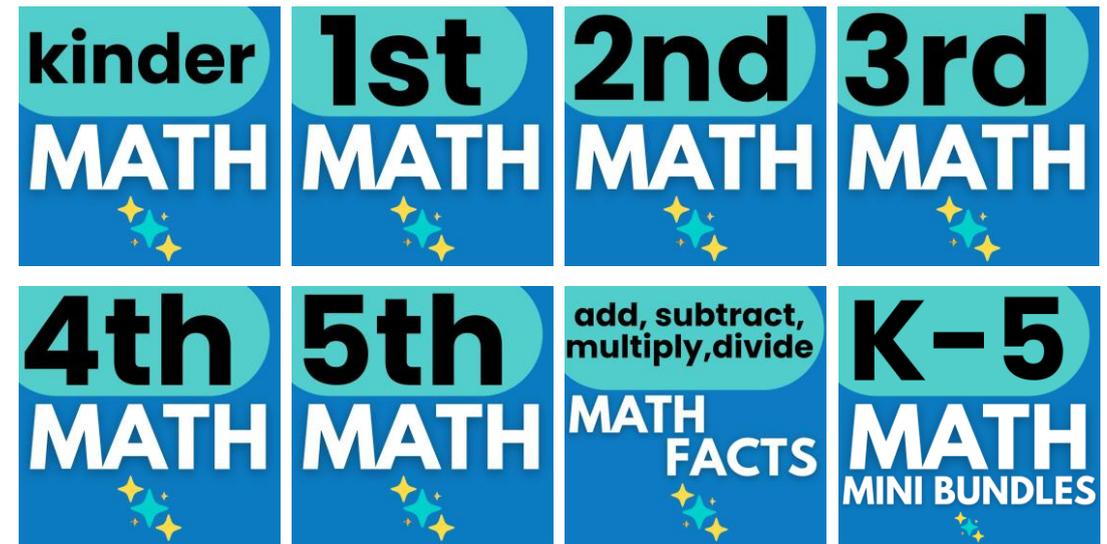
## GRAB A **READING MYSTERY**:

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!**

