

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!

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.

48,531	15,678	36,805	81,864	72,346	12,890	60,129	64,443	30,535

Answers:

$\begin{array}{r} 48,531 \\ -59,900 \\ \hline -11,369 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 111 \\ 28,65 \\ -35,828 \\ \hline 64,443 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 343 \\ 74,00 \\ -61,240 \\ \hline 12,890 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 12,33 \\ +18,222 \\ \hline 30,535 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 735,12 \\ 99,42 \\ -12,598 \\ \hline 81,864 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 111 \\ 39,869 \\ +32,477 \\ \hline 72,346 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 11,14 \\ 92,859 \\ -26,884 \\ \hline 60,129 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 111 \\ 14,269 \\ +5,860 \\ \hline 3,946 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 111 \\ 3,946 \\ +16,585 \\ \hline 48,531 \end{array}$
--	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	---

Letters: 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 =	V =
D =	J =	P =	W =	X =
E =	K =	Q =		
F =	L =	R =		

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

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

Name: _____

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!

SKILL PRACTICE

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.

48,531 15,678 36,805

Answers: $\begin{array}{r} 4995 \\ 5980 \\ -34322 \\ \hline 15,678 \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 111 \\ 28,65 \\ +35,828 \\ \hline 64,478 \end{array}$

Letters: N O

The culprit has...

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

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.

Darius	Destiny	Nora
0.42 > 0.24 ✓	0.99 < 0.66 ✗	0.49 = 0.9 ✗
0.69 < 0.96 ✓	0.80 = 0.8 ✓	0.38 < 0.39 ✓
0.4 < 0.05 ✗	0.27 > 0.26 ✓	0.19 < 0.2 ✓
0.3 > 0.04 ✓	0.08 = 0.80 ✗	0.02 > 0.2 ✗
0.12 = 0.12 ✓	0.35 > 0.4 ✗	0.5 > 0.05 ✓

The suspect with the most correct answers is not the culprit.

Clue #3: Detective Report

pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had 27,501 pencils in my desk. I only have 3x7123 pencils at my desk, he only had 5x4324 pencils at my desk. I gave 21,369 pencils to my friend. How many pencils she had. She told me 44,826 more pencils. Then she found 6x7471 more pencils.

10,489=A	21,720=J	58,520=L
31,123=G	10,493=N	22,492=F
45,965=S	9,775=U	30,100=P
21,369=D	54,125=X	27,501=R
14,445=Z	21,44=O	45,125=B
20,864=Y	31,265=I	12,440=S
8,774=0	21,620=E	
28,230=C	41,54=V	
38,836=S	24,306=Z	
44,826=E	42,675=H	

- Add to 100,000
- 1 by 4 Digit Multiplication
- Compare Decimals
- Round to Any Place Value
- Add/Subtract Mixed Numbers with Like Denominators
- School-Themed
- Error Analysis Practice

All clues focus on reviewing 5th grade math skills!

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. Decide if each comparison symbol is correct. Put a check or an X next to each answer.

Clue #3: Detective Report
I have 6×3524 pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had 3×9167 pencils in her desk. She had $10,493$ pencils at home. When I gave her $2,438$ pencils, she told me that she had 26 more pencils in her desk than I had.

3 Clue Version

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

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. Decide if each comparison symbol is correct.

Clue #3: Detective Report
I have $21,144$ pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had $37,501$ pencils in her desk. She had $6,3524$ pencils at home. When I gave her $2,438$ pencils, she told me that she had 26 more pencils in her desk than I had.

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 answer according to the key.

5 Clue Version

Color the answers equal to 4 green.
Color the answers equal to $3 \frac{3}{4}$ blue.
Color the answers equal to $3 \frac{1}{2}$ red.
Color the answers equal to $3 \frac{1}{4}$ 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.

Answers: 4995 , 2865 , 7430 , 1233 , 9412 , 39869 , 5124 , 111 , 111 , 111
 -34322 , $+35828$, -6290 , $+8222$, -12598 , $+32477$, 14269 , 3196

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.

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.

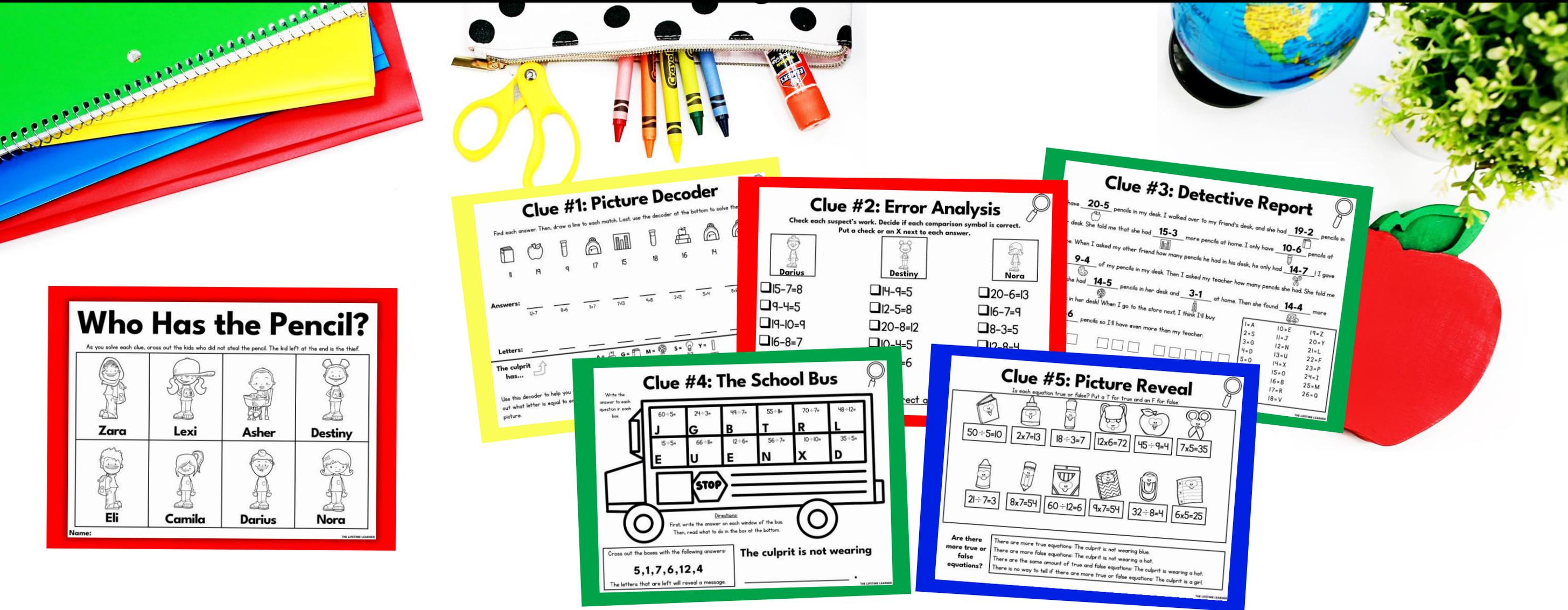
Answers: $50,000$, $28,65$, $7,430$, $1,233$, $9,412$, $39,869$, $63,691$, $14,269$, $3,196$
 $-34,322$, $+35,828$, $-6,290$, $+8,222$, $-12,598$, $+32,477$, $-26,894$, $+6,860$, $+6,585$

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.

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:

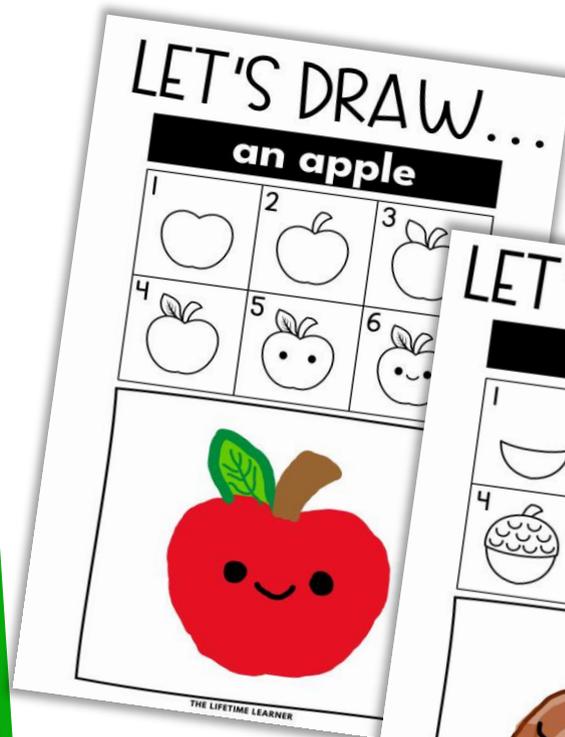


Lindsay

You solved the mystery!

11/2
Date

AW
Presented by:



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.

26,549 X 26,550 E	45,962 46,000 G	59,426 60,000 X	45,962 45,960 X	59,426 59,000 R	26,549 26,500 X
26,549 30,000 E	59,426 59,400 X	45,962 46,000 E	26,549 27,000 N	59,426 59,430 X	45,962 50,000 X

Round to the underlined place.

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:
• 26,500 • 45,960 • 59,400
• 50,000 • 60,000 • 59,430
• 26,550

The letters that are left will reveal a message.

The culprit is not wearing
Green

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

In 5th 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 6×3524 pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had 3×9167 pencils in her desk.

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

1+1	3+7	4+1	0+0	6+3	2+2
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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

$1\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{1}{2}$ 4	$1\frac{1}{8} + 2\frac{2}{8}$ $3\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{3}{4} + 1\frac{1}{4}$ $3\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{4}{4} + 3\frac{1}{4}$ 4	$1\frac{2}{4} + 1\frac{1}{4}$ $3\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{2}{4} + 2\frac{2}{4}$ 4
$\frac{2}{4} + 3\frac{1}{4}$ $3\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{3}{4} + \frac{3}{4}$ $3\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{8} + 1\frac{1}{8}$ $3\frac{1}{4}$	$2 + 1\frac{1}{4}$ $3\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{2}{4} + 2\frac{1}{4}$ $3\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{2}{8} + 2\frac{2}{8}$ $3\frac{1}{2}$

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

Which color do you see the most of?

- Green: The culprit is not wearing a hat.
- 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

1. Circle
2. Add stem and leaf
3. Add face
4. Add stem
5. Add face
6. Add stem

LET'S DRAW...
an acorn

1. Circle
2. Add cap
3. Add face
4. Add cap
5. Add face
6. Add cap

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.

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

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.

48,531 15,678 36,805 81,864 72,346 12,890 60,129 64,443 30,535

4995 111 345 1233 785 12 111 512 111 111
5988 2865 7490 9462 39864 39864 39864 39864 39864
-34322 +35828 -61240 +8222 -12598 -32477 -26854 +5860 +16585
15,678 64,443 12,890 39535 81,864 72,346 36,805 60,129 48,531

N O B O O K B A G

The culprit has...

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

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

KEEP THE FUN GOING!

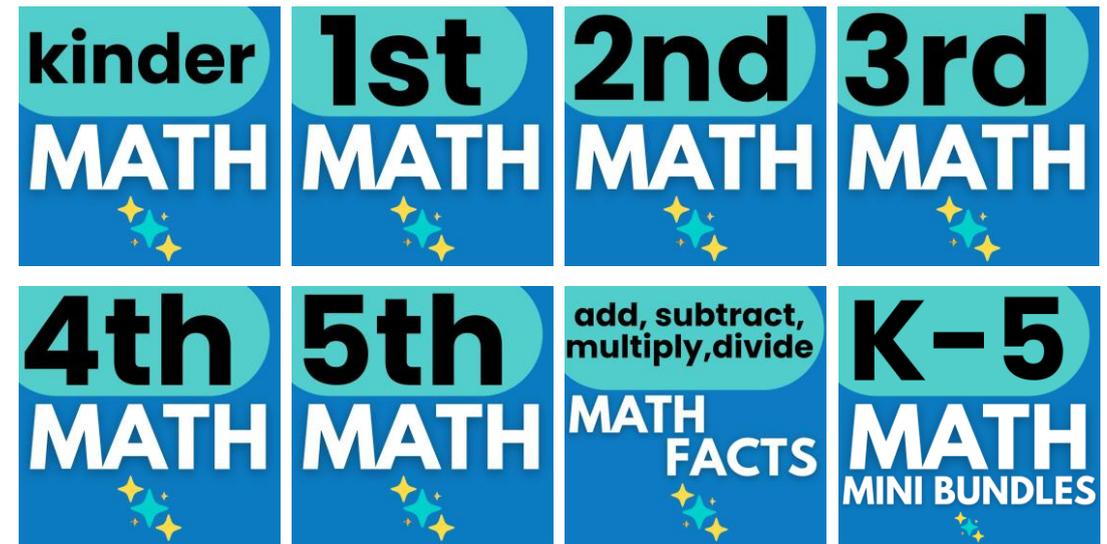
GRAB A **READING MYSTERY**:

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!**

