

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

Clue #3: Detective Report
I have $20-5$ ¹⁵ pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had $19-2$ ¹⁷ pencils in her desk. She told me that she had $15-3$ ¹² more pencils at home. I only have $10-6$ ⁴ pencils at home. When she told me that she had $9-4$ ⁵ pencils in her desk, she was wrong. Write the answer to each question in each box.

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

8+5	7-4	13-6	8+7	9+9	6+6
X 13	G 11	X 19	X 15	R 18	X 12

Clue #5: Picture Reveal
Is each equation true or false? Put a T for true and an F for false.

$50 \div 5 = 10$	$2 \times 7 = 13$	$18 \div 3 = 7$	$12 \times 6 = 72$	$45 \div 9 = 4$	$7 \times 5 = 35$
T	F	F	T	F	T
$21 \div 7 = 3$	$8 \times 7 = 54$	$60 \div 12 = 6$	$9 \times 7 = 54$	$32 \div 8 = 4$	$6 \times 5 = 25$
T	F	F	F	T	F

Are there more true or false equations?
 There are more true equations: The culprit is not wearing blue.
 There are more false equations: The culprit is not wearing a hat.
 There are the same amount of true and false equations: The culprit is wearing a hat.
 There is no way to tell if there are more true or false equations: 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.

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

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.

11	19	9	17	15	18	16	14	20

Answers: $\frac{19}{12-7}$ $\frac{14}{8-6}$ $\frac{18}{8-7}$ $\frac{20}{7+3}$ $\frac{17}{9-8}$ $\frac{15}{2+3}$ $\frac{9}{5+4}$ $\frac{16}{8-8}$ $\frac{11}{6-5}$

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

Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

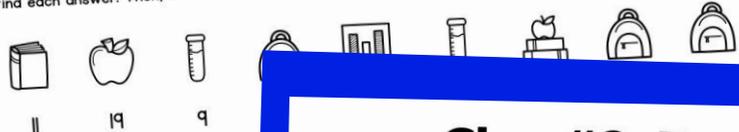
Each time students solve a clue, it will reveal which suspects to cross off.

When all clues are completed, the mystery of the missing pencil will be solved!

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.



Answers: $\frac{19}{12+7}$ $\frac{14}{8+6}$

Letters: n o

The culprit has...

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

Clue #3: Detective Report

pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had $\frac{17}{19-2}$ pencils in
hat she had $\frac{12}{15-3}$ more pencils at

e. I only have $\frac{4}{10-6}$ pencils at
desk, he only had $\frac{7}{14-7}$! I gave

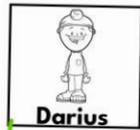
ow many pencils she had. She told me

Then she found $\frac{10}{14-4}$ more

1=A	10=E	19=Z
2=S	11=J	20=Y
3=G	12=N	21=L
4=D	13=U	22=F
5=O	14=X	23=P
6=S	15=0	24=I
7=E	16=B	25=M
8=C	17=R	26=Q
9=H	18=V	

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

$15-7=8$

$9-4=5$

$19-10=9$

$16-8=7$

$11-3=8$



Destiny

$14-9=5$

$12-5=8$

$20-8=12$

$10-4=5$

$13-6=6$



Nora

$20-6=13$

$16-7=9$

$8-3=5$

$12-8=4$

$17-5=13$

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

- Version 1:
Addition & Subtraction Facts
- Version 2:
Multiplication & Division Facts

All clues focus on reviewing math facts!

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 ¹⁵_{5x3} pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had ¹⁸_{6x3} pencils in her desk. I gave ¹²₄ pencils at home. Who told me she had more 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.

2	5	8	7	4	6	9	5	21	20
N	O	R	E	D	S	H	O	E	S

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.

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I have ¹⁵_{5x3} pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had ¹⁸_{6x3} pencils in her desk. I gave ¹²₄ pencils at home. Who told me she had more pencils in her desk?

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

Clue #5: Picture Reveal
Is each equation true or false? Put a T for true and an F for false.

5 Clue Version

Are there more true or false equations? There are more true equations. The culprit is not wearing blue. There are more false equations. The culprit is not wearing a hat. There are the same amount of true and false equations. The culprit is wearing a hat. There is no way to tell if there are more true or false equations. 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_{5x3} ⁶⁴_{8x8} ¹²_{2x6} ³⁰_{10x3} ⁸¹_{9x9} ⁷²_{6x12} ³⁶_{4x9} ⁶⁰_{6x10} ⁴⁸_{12x4}

Letters: N O B O O K

The culprit has...

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_{5x3} ⁶⁴_{8x8} ¹²_{2x6} ³⁰_{10x3} ⁸¹_{9x9} ⁷²_{6x12} ³⁶_{4x9} ⁶⁰_{6x10} ⁴⁸_{12x4}

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

Short & Long Options

FAST FINISHER ACTIVITY



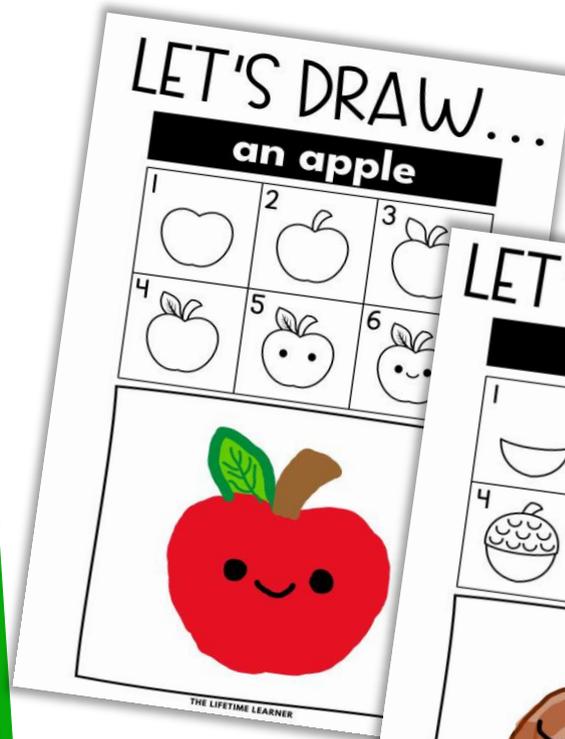
The Detective Agency sends
congratulations to:



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
- 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.

8+5	7+4	13+6	8+7	9+9	6+6
X 13	G 11	X 19	X 15	R 18	X 12
6+10	6+8	3+7	11+6	12+8	4+5
E 16	X 14	E 10	N 17	X 20	X 9

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:
14, 9, 20, 19, 13, 15, 12
The letters that are left will reveal a message.

The culprit is not wearing
green

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

This can be used in partners, small groups with the teacher, table groups, centers, and more!

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 $20-5$ pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had $19-2$ pencils in 15 17

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
Is each equation true or false? Put a T for true and an F for false.

$50 \div 5 = 10$	$2 \times 7 = 13$	$18 \div 3 = 7$	$12 \times 6 = 72$	$45 \div 9 = 4$	$7 \times 5 = 35$
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There is no way to tell if there are more true or false equations: 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 2 3 4 5 6

LET'S DRAW...
an acorn

1 2 3 4 5 6

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 tie. Camila	I have yellow pants. Darius	I have a blue bow. Nora

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

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

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 =	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!

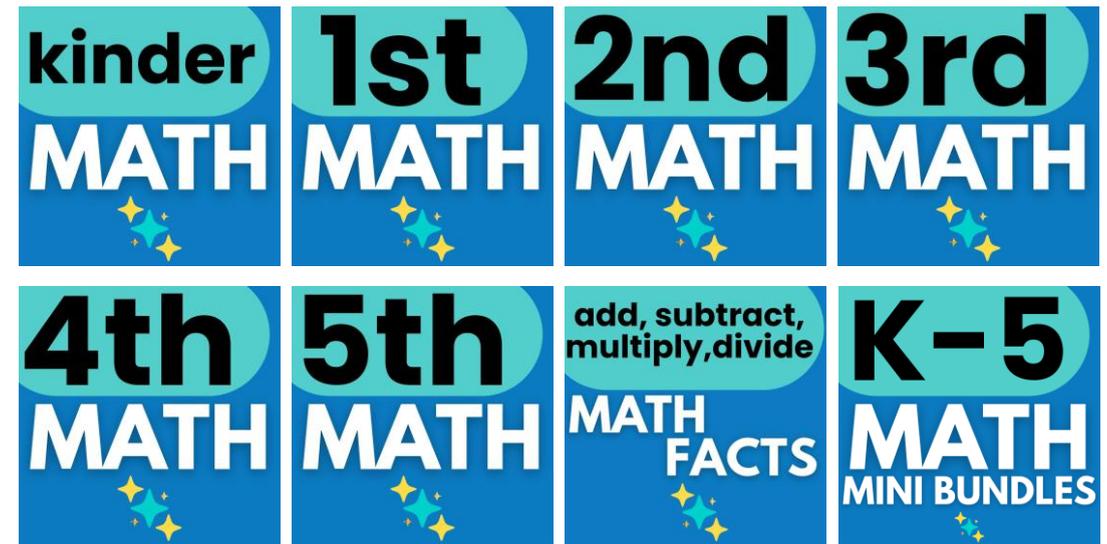
GRAB A **READING MYSTERY**:

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!**

