

# WHAT IS THIS?



Students complete a series of clues to figure out what's in the mystery box!



# HOW TO PLAY

## What Happened?

This morning, a mysterious box arrived on your doorstep. You don't know what's inside, but it's up to you to figure it out by completing a set of clues.

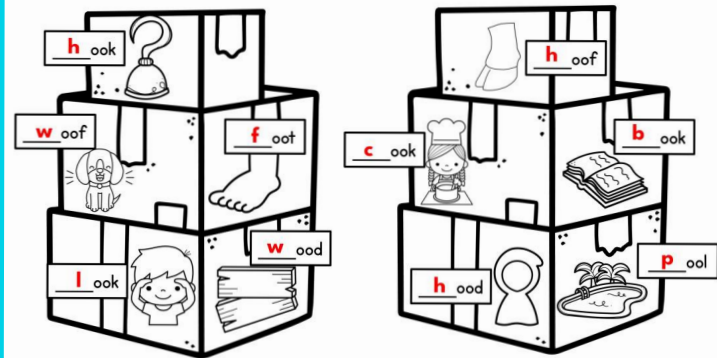
1. Take a list of mystery items and then start solving each clue.
2. Each time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering what is inside the mystery box.
3. Cross out wrong boxes each time you find out new information. Good luck!



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## Clue #1: Missing Letters

Fill in the missing letter for each. Then, read what to do at the bottom.



The item in the box does NOT have:

B: 5 letters  
W: 6 letters  
L: 9 letters

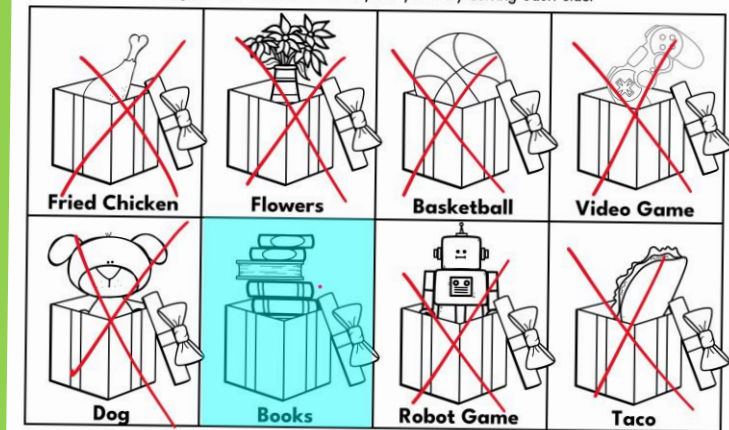
H: 4 letters  
C: 8 letters  
P: 7 letters

Which letter did you see most often?

Use that answer to cross off wrong items.

## What's in the Box?

Figure out what's in the mystery box by solving each clue.



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

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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

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

# SKILL PRACTICE

- Long OO
- Short OO

### Clue #1: Missing Letters

Fill in the missing letter for each. Then, read what to do at the bottom.

Which letter did you see most?  
Use that answer to cross off

### Clue #2: Multiple Choice

Circle the right answer and color in the matching box. Then read the bottom.

1.	2.	3.	4.
A. hoop - red B. moon - yellow C. goose - blue D. root - green	A. pool - red B. noon - yellow C. tooth - blue D. stool - green	A. root - red B. boot - yellow C. broom - blue D. tool - green	A. zoo - red B. goose - yellow C. roof - blue D. tool - green
5.	6.	7.	8.
A. moon - red B. spoon - yellow C. coop - blue D. zoom - green	A. food - red B. moose - yellow C. room - blue D. coop - green	A. drool - red B. pool - yellow C. goose - blue D. zoo - green	A. roof - red B. root - yellow C. boot - blue D. moon - green

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

The item is not a ball: if the picture has:	The item is not a food: if the picture has:	The item is not in a vase: if the picture has:	The item can not be read: if the picture has:
• Box 1: red • Box 5: yellow • Box 2: green • Box 6: red • Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue • Box 4: green • Box 8: green	• Box 1: red • Box 5: blue • Box 2: blue • Box 6: red • Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue • Box 4: green • Box 8: green	• Box 1: red • Box 5: yellow • Box 2: blue • Box 6: red • Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue • Box 4: green • Box 8: green	• Box 1: yellow • Box 5: yellow • Box 2: blue • Box 6: red • Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue • Box 4: green • Box 8: blue

### Clue #3: Right or Wrong

Picture match the word? Color the thumb in to show if you agree.

stool	hook

How if the picture is correct.  
Animal is not in the box.  
is not in the box.  
not in the box.  
is not in the box.

All clues focus on reviewing long & short OO.



# MULTIPLE VERSIONS

Print & Digital Forms

**Clue #1: Missing Letters**  
Fill in the missing letter for each. Then, read what to do at the bottom.

**Clue #2: Multiple Choice**  
Circle the right answer and color in the matching box. Then read the bottom.

**Clue #3: Right or Wrong**  
Does the picture match the word? Color the thumb in to show if you agree.

**3 Clue Version**

How many pictures were correct?

1 Correct = A meat is not in the box.  
2 Correct = A sport is not in the box.  
3 Correct = A food is not in the box.  
4 Correct = A pet that barks is not in the box.

5 Correct = An animal is not in the box.  
6 Correct = A game is not in the box.  
7 Correct = A toy is not in the box.  
8 Correct = A book is not in the box.

**Clue #1: Missing Letters**  
Fill in the missing letter for each. Then, read what to do at the bottom.

**Clue #2: Multiple Choice**  
Circle the right answer and color in the matching box. Then read the bottom.

**Clue #3: Right or Wrong**  
Does the picture match the word? Color the thumb in to show if you agree.

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**

**Clue #5: Descrambler**  
Solve each question. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.


**5 Clue Version**


The item in the box is something:

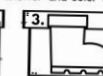
**Y O U C A N R E A D**

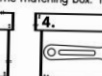
draol moon root hoop spoon shook foot tooth broom wood

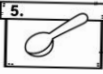
**Clue #2: Multiple Choice**  
Circle the right answer and color in the matching box. Then read the bottom.


1.  A. hoop - red  
B. moon - yellow  
C. goose - blue  
D. root - green

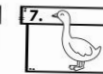
2.  A. pool - red  
B. noon - yellow  
C. tooth - blue  
D. stool - green

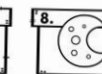
3.  A. root - red  
B. boot - yellow  
C. broom - blue  
D. tool - green

4.  A. zoo - red  
B. goose - yellow  
C. roof - blue  
D. tool - green

5.  A. moon - red  
B. spoon - yellow  
C. coop - blue  
D. zoom - green

6.  A. food - red  
B. moose - yellow  
C. room - blue  
D. coop - green

7.  A. drail - red  
B. pool - yellow  
C. goose - blue  
D. zoo - green

8.  A. roof - red  
B. root - yellow  
C. boat - blue  
D. moon - green

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


The item is not a ball:  
if the picture has:  
• Box 1: red • Box 5: yellow  
• Box 2: green • Box 6: red  
• Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue  
• Box 4: green • Box 8: green


The item is not a food:  
if the picture has:  
• Box 1: red • Box 5: blue  
• Box 2: blue • Box 6: red  
• Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue  
• Box 4: green • Box 8: green

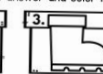
The item is not in a vase:  
if the picture has:  
• Box 1: red • Box 5: yellow  
• Box 2: blue • Box 6: red  
• Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue  
• Box 4: green • Box 8: green

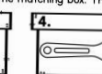
The item can not be read:  
if the picture has:  
• Box 1: yellow • Box 5: yellow  
• Box 2: blue • Box 6: red  
• Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue  
• Box 4: green • Box 8: blue

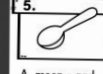
**Clue #2: Multiple Choice**  
Circle the right answer and color in the matching box. Then read the bottom.

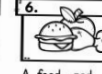
1.  A. hoop - red  
B. moon - yellow  
C. goose - blue  
D. root - green

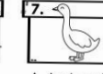
2.  A. pool - red  
B. noon - yellow  
C. tooth - blue  
D. stool - green

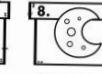
3.  A. root - red  
B. boot - yellow  
C. broom - blue  
D. tool - green

4.  A. zoo - red  
B. goose - yellow  
C. roof - blue  
D. tool - green

5.  A. moon - red  
B. spoon - yellow  
C. coop - blue  
D. zoom - green

6.  A. food - red  
B. moose - yellow  
C. room - blue  
D. coop - green

7.  A. drail - red  
B. pool - yellow  
C. goose - blue  
D. zoo - green

8.  A. roof - red  
B. root - yellow  
C. boat - blue  
D. moon - green

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

The item is not a ball:  
if the picture has:  
• Box 1: red • Box 5: yellow  
• Box 2: green • Box 6: red  
• Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue  
• Box 4: green • Box 8: green

The item is not a food:  
if the picture has:  
• Box 1: red • Box 5: blue  
• Box 2: blue • Box 6: red  
• Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue  
• Box 4: green • Box 8: green

The item is not in a vase:  
if the picture has:  
• Box 1: red • Box 5: yellow  
• Box 2: blue • Box 6: red  
• Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue  
• Box 4: green • Box 8: green

The item can not be read:  
if the picture has:  
• Box 1: yellow • Box 5: yellow  
• Box 2: blue • Box 6: red  
• Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue  
• Box 4: green • Box 8: blue

Short & Long Options



# CVC OPTION AVAILABLE

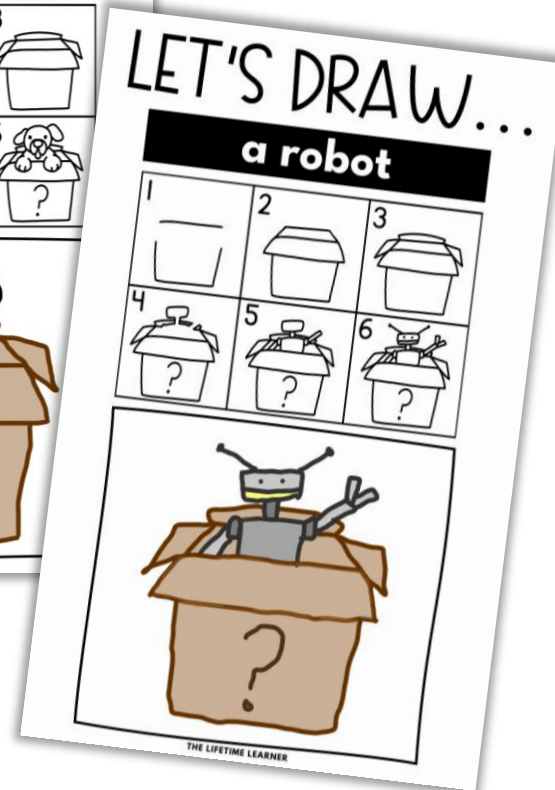
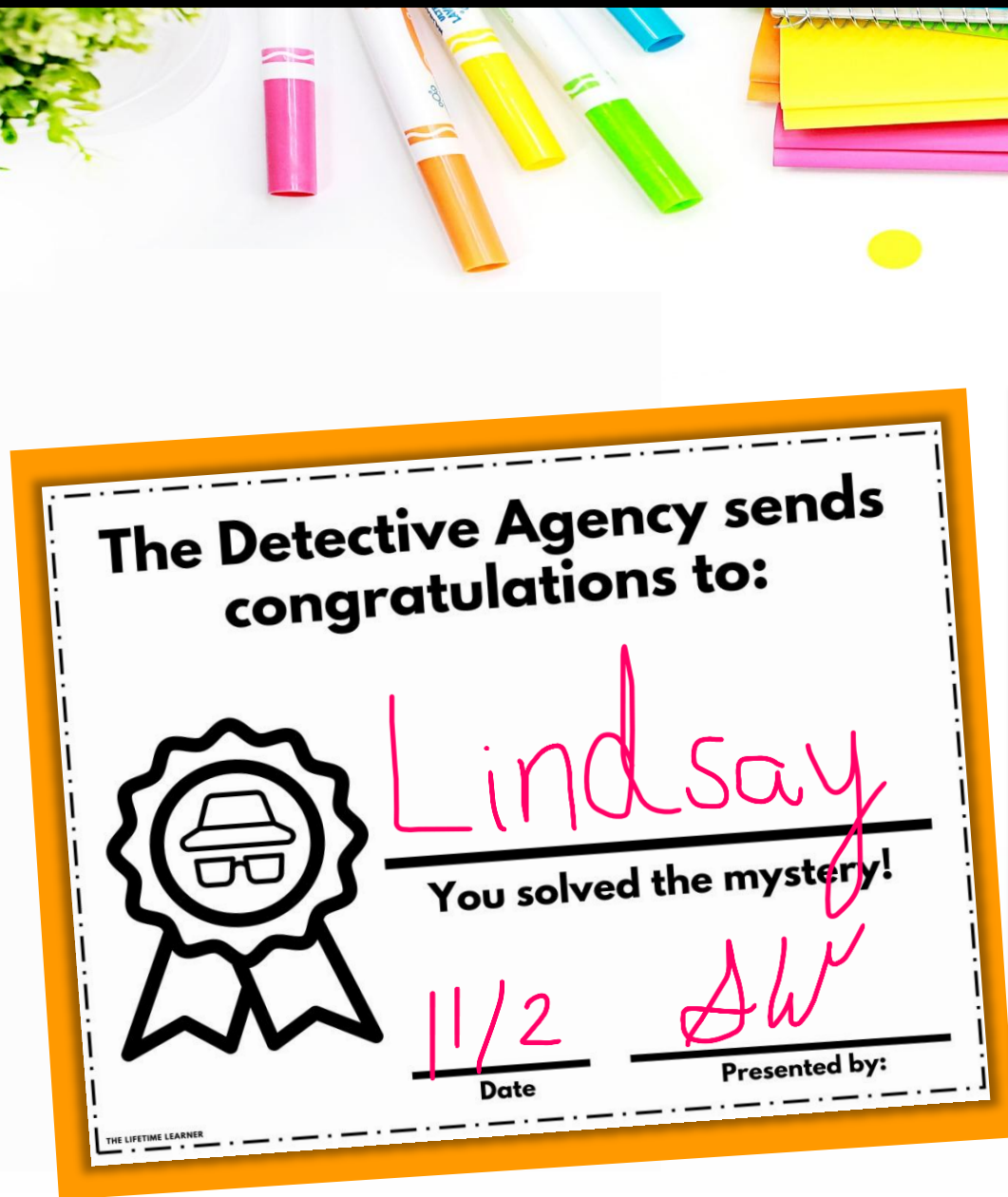


Differentiate within your small groups. Same clues. Same mystery. Different focus!

There is a version of the mystery included that reviews CVC Words (Short A, E, I, O, U).



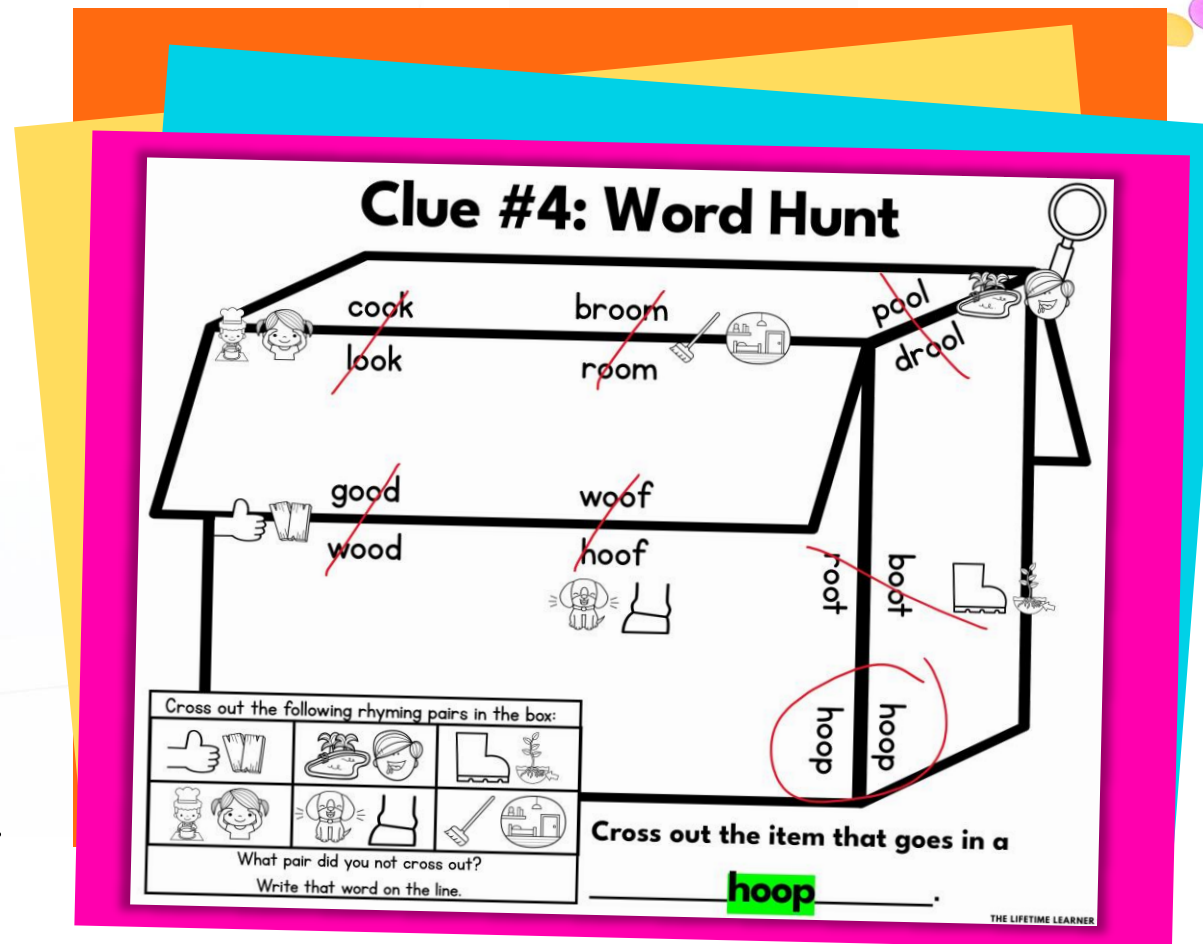
# FAST FINISHER ACTIVITY



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

# PHONICS MYSTERY BENEFITS

- No Prep
- Print and Digital Versions
- 3 & 5 Clue Options
- Fun and Engaging
- Easy to Differentiate
- Encourages Critical Thinking
- Aligns with Phonics Standards
- Perfect for Review Days
- Choice between 2 versions: Short & Long OO Mystery OR CVC Words Mystery. You can even mix/match clues to combine the 2 skills together (clues are interchangeable)!



In 1st grade, this works well as a whole group lesson or in small groups at the teacher table.

First graders will need teacher support to read & understand the clues/directions



# WHY TEACHERS LOVE THESE!

Ordinary phonics worksheets can be boring and unoriginal.

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

**PHONICS MYSTERIES ARE EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!**

**Clue #1: Missing Letters**  
Fill in the missing letter for each. Then, read what to do at the bottom.

**Clue #2: Multiple Choice**  
Circle the right answer and color in the matching box. Then read the bottom.

**Clue #3: Right or Wrong**  
Does the picture match the word? Color the thumb in to show if you agree.

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**

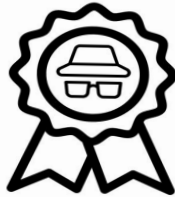
**Clue #5: Descrambler**  
Solve each question. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

The item in the box is something:

**Y O U C A N R E A D**

drail moon root hoop spoon shook foot tooth broom wood

**The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:**

 **Lindsay**

**You solved the mystery!**

**11/2** **AW**

Date Presented by:


**LET'S DRAW...**  
**a puppy**

1 2 3  
4 5 6

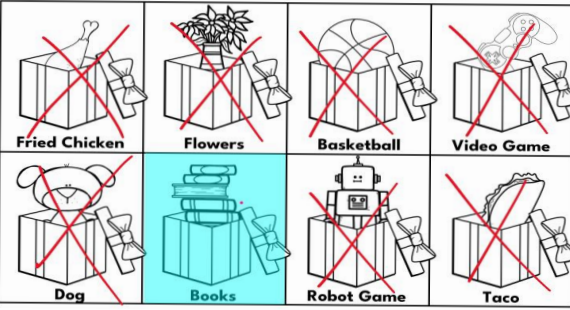



**LET'S DRAW...**  
**a robot**


1 2 3  
4 5 6





**What's in the Box?**  
Figure out what's in the mystery box by solving each clue.


 **Fried Chicken**

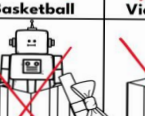
 **Flowers**


 **Basketball**

 **Video Game**

 **Dog**


 **Books**

 **Robot Game**

 **Taco**

Name:

**solve the mystery**



**The Case of the Mysterious Package**



# WHAT MAKES READING MYSTERIES UNIQUE?



**Reading**

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

They have brand-new clues, focus on reading 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.

Example  
of Clue 1

### Clue #1: Missing Letters

Fill in the missing letter for each. Then, read what to do at the bottom.

The first cube has the following words: 'hook' (missing 'h'), 'foot' (missing 'f'), 'wood' (missing 'w'), 'look' (missing 'l'), and 'hood' (missing 'h'). The second cube has: 'hoof' (missing 'h'), 'book' (missing 'b'), 'cook' (missing 'c'), 'pool' (missing 'p'), and 'hood' (missing 'h').

Which letter did you see most often?  
Use that answer to cross off wrong items.

The item in the box does NOT have:

B: 5 letters	H: 4 letters
W: 6 letters	C: 8 letters
L: 9 letters	P: 7 letters

**Math**

### 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.

The grid shows numbers 32, 35, 17, 41, 56, 18, 3, and 49. Lines connect these numbers to the letters N, O, T, R, O, U, N, D. Below the letters is a decoder table.

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 MATH MYSTERY:

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



## MORE READING MYSTERIES:

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



**BUY A BUNDLE  
TO SAVE BIG!**

