

WHAT IS THIS?

Clue #1: Descrambler
Look at the picture. Match it to a word below. Write the letter next to each race car on each line. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

Clue #2: Finish Line Sort
Color the finish lines the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

Starts with: red, yellow, green, blue

Clue #3: Error Analysis
Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer. Read the hint from the car with the most correct answers.

Clue #4: Word Hunt
Fill in the last letter of each word.

Clue #5: Fill in the Blank
Read each word below. Find the matching picture above. Then write the word in each box.
Word: storm Word: corn Word: boar
Word: fork Word: more Word: sore
Word: roar Word: sort Word: work

solve the mystery
The Case of the Big Race
THE LIFETIME LEARNER

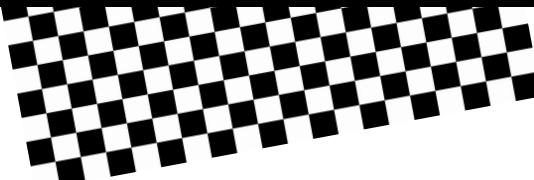
Who Won the Race?
Figure out who won the big race by solving each clue.

Car	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
My car is blue.	Ji	Milo	Andres	Luna	Leo	Jada	Eve	Nobu
My car is green.								
My car is red.								
My car is blue.								
My car is red.								
My car is pink.								
My car is black.								

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Students complete a series of clues to figure out who won the race!

HOW TO PLAY



What Happened?

You forgot to watch the big race on TV last night. Now, you're going to need to solve some clues to figure out who won! Help figure out who came in 1st place so you'll be able to chat with friends about the winner.

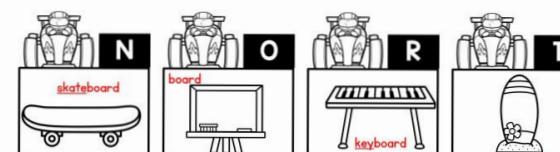
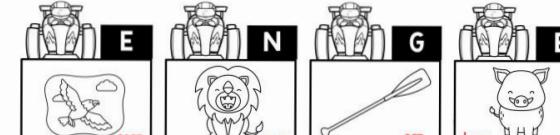
1. Take a list of racers and then start solving each clue.
2. Each time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering who won the race.
3. Cross out wrong race cars each time you find out new information. Good luck!



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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The winner's car is:

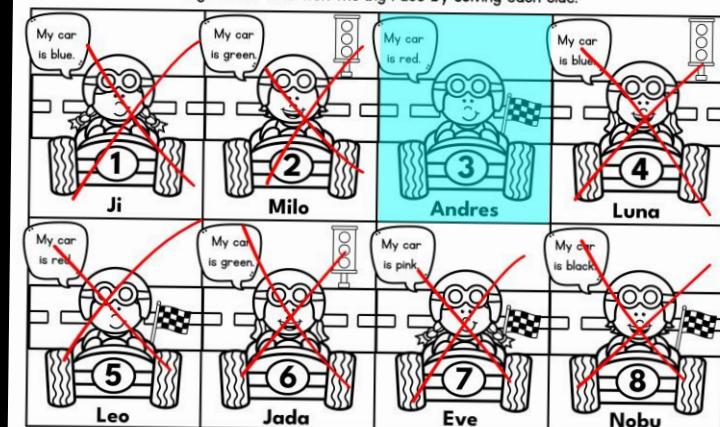
N O T G R E E N

roar board surfboard oar keyboard boar soar skateboard



Who Won the Race?

Figure out who won the big race by solving each clue.

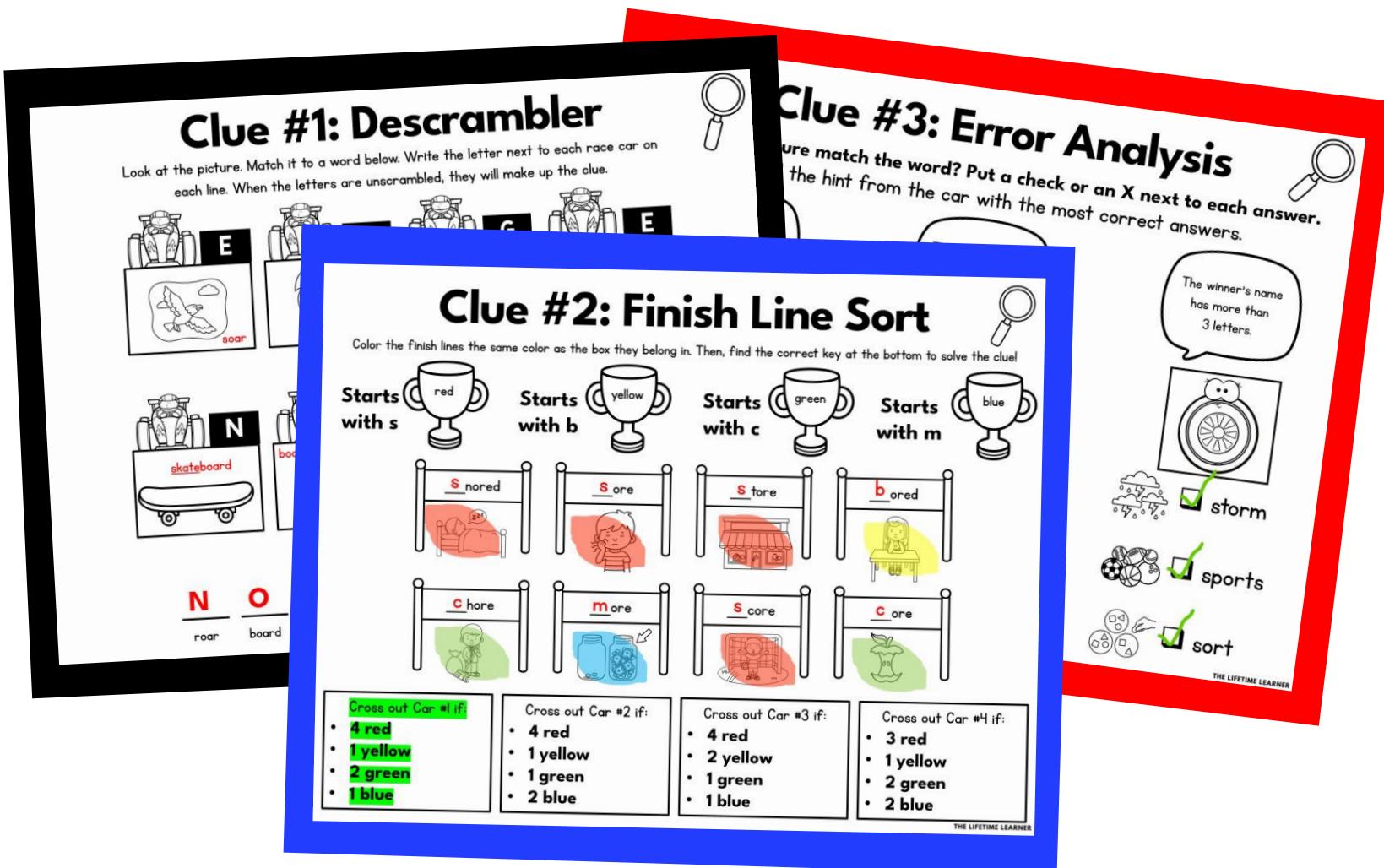


Name:

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Each time students solve a clue, it will reveal which racers to cross out. When all clues are completed, the mystery of the big race will be solved!

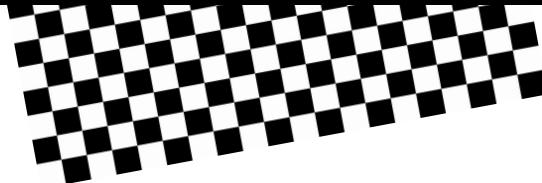
SKILL PRACTICE



- R Controlled Vowels Review
- OAR Words
- OR Words
- ORE Words

All clues focus on reviewing R controlled vowels!

MULTIPLE VERSIONS



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Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer. Read the hint from the car with the most correct answers.

3 Clue Version

fork cork sports sort

fort corn

Clue #4: Word Hunt
Fill in the last letter of each word.

Clue #5: Fill in the Blank

red	tire	Nobu	shortest	black	in
winner	longest	race	flag	the	hair
the	the	the	the	the	the
ox	car	car	car	car	car
Word:					

When you are done, read the words in order from top to bottom in each row to figure out the clue.

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ox	car	car	car	car	car
Word:					

When you are done, read the words in order from top to bottom in each row to figure out the clue.

5 Clue Version

Short & Long Options

Print & Digital Forms

Clue #2: Finish Line Sort
Color the finish lines the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

Starts with s **Starts with b** **Starts with c** **Starts with m**

<i>s</i> nored	<i>s</i> ore	<i>s</i> ore	<i>b</i> ored
<i>c</i> hore	<i>m</i> ore	<i>s</i> core	<i>c</i> ore
<i>C</i> hore	<i>M</i> ore	<i>S</i> core	<i>C</i> ore

Cross out Car #1 if:

- 4 red
- 1 yellow
- 2 green
- 1 blue

Cross out Car #2 if:

- 4 red
- 1 yellow
- 2 green
- 1 blue

Cross out Car #3 if:

- 4 red
- 2 yellow
- 1 green
- 1 blue

Clue #2: Finish Line Sort
Color the finish lines the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

Starts with s **Starts with b** **Starts with c** **Starts with m**

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<i>c</i> hore	<i>m</i> ore	<i>s</i> core	<i>c</i> ore
<i>C</i> hore	<i>M</i> ore	<i>S</i> core	<i>C</i> ore

Cross out Car #1 if:

- 4 red
- 1 yellow
- 2 green
- 1 blue

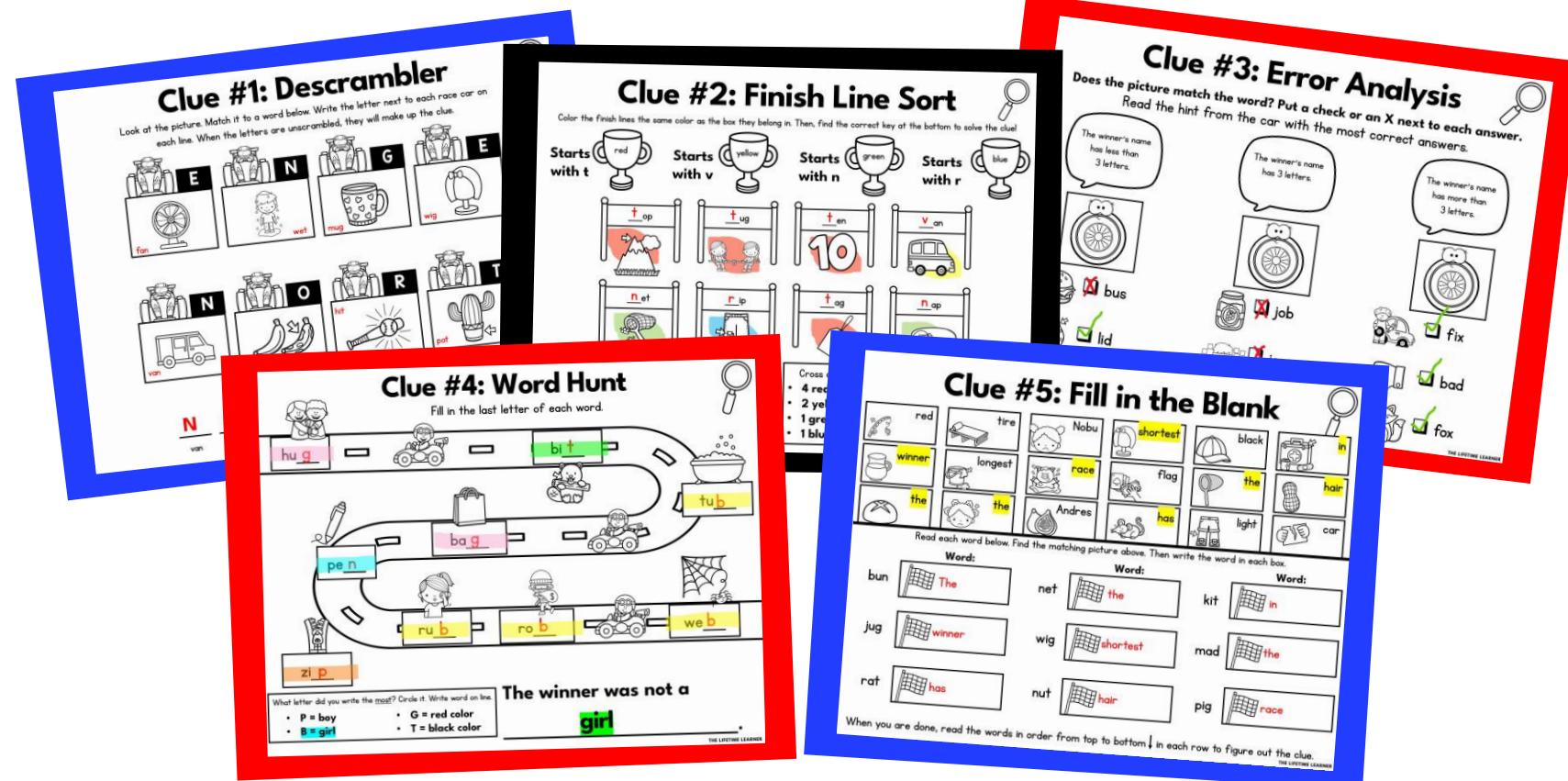
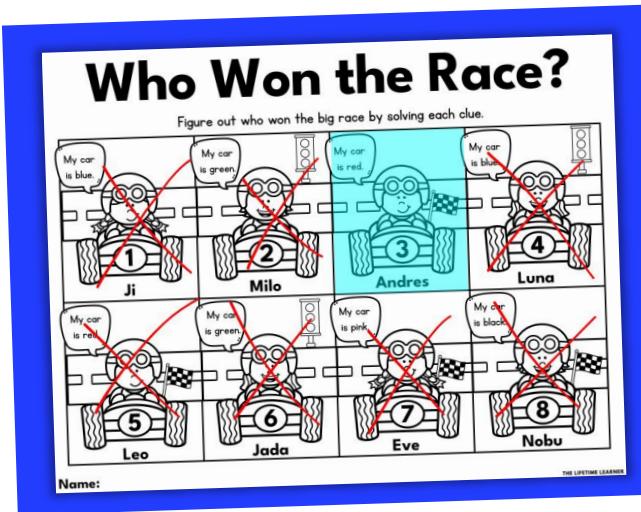
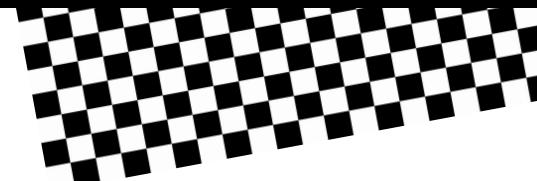
Cross out Car #2 if:

- 4 red
- 2 yellow
- 1 green
- 1 blue

Cross out Car #3 if:

- 3 red
- 1 yellow
- 2 green
- 2 blue

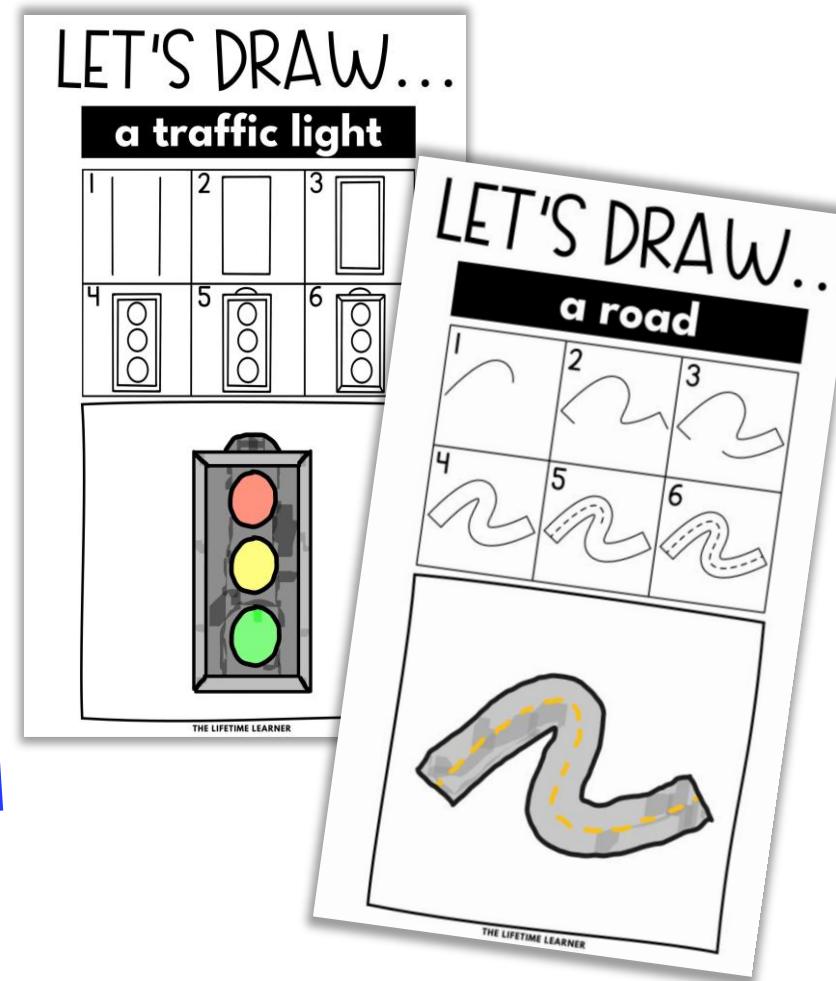
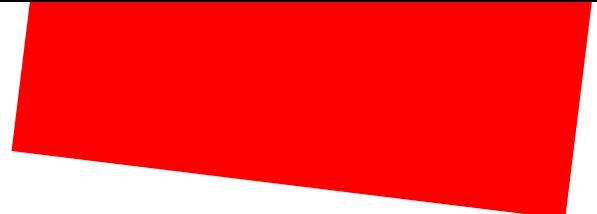
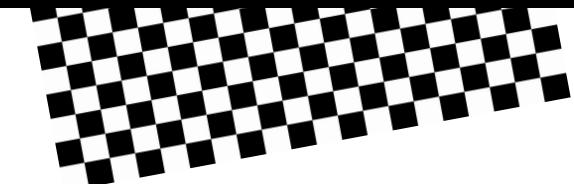
CVC OPTION AVAILABLE



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).

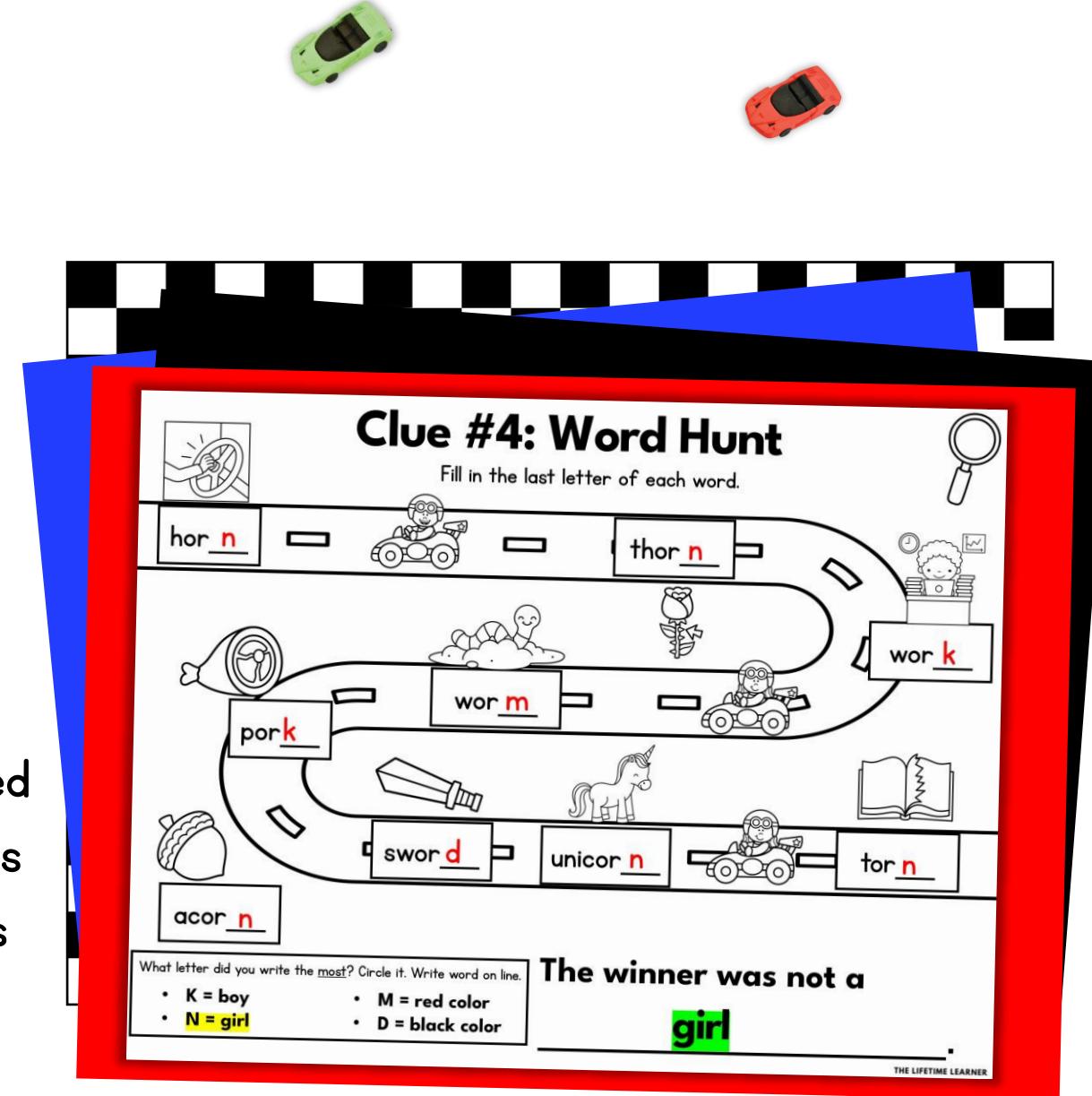
FAST FINISHER ACTIVITY



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: R Controlled Vowels Review 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!

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Clue #5: Fill in the Blank
Read each word below. Find the matching picture above. Then write the word in each box.

Word: storm	Word: fork	Word: roar	Word: corn	Word: more	Word: sort	Word: has	Word: the	Word: shortest	Word: flag	Word: light	Word: hair	Word: car	Word: in	Word: race	Word: Andres	Word: the	Word: Nobu	Word: shortest	Word: black	Word: hair	Word: car	Word: the	Word: hair	Word: race	Word: Andres	Word: the	Word: Nobu	Word: shortest	Word: black	Word: hair	Word: car
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When you are done, read the words in order from top to bottom in each row to figure out the clue.

The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:



Lindsay
You solved the mystery!
11/2 SW

Date: _____ Presented by: _____

Who Won the Race?
Figure out who won the big race by solving each clue.

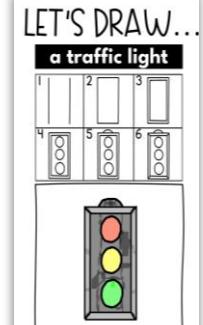
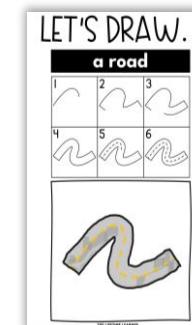
My car is blue	My car is green	My car is red	My car is blue
1 Ji	2 Milo	3 Andres	4 Luna
My car is red	My car is pink	My car is black	My car is blue
5 Leo	6 Jada	7 Eve	8 Nobu

Name: _____

solve the mystery



The Case of the Big Race



WHAT MAKES READING MYSTERIES UNIQUE?

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.



Reading

Clue #1: Descrambler

Look at the picture. Match it to a word below. Write the letter next to each race car on each line. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

 E	 N	 G	 E
soar	roar	oar	boar
 N	 O	 R	 T
skateboard	board	keyboard	surfboard

The winner's car is:

N O T G R E E N

NOT GREEN

roar board surfboard oar keyboard boar soar skateboard

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Example of Clue 1

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.

 4	 6	 12	 10	 11	 8
13-3=	10-4=	18-6=	9-5=	12-4=	17-6=
3+ =13	4+ =10	6+ =18	5+ =9	4+ =12	6+ =17

Answers: **10 6 12 4 11 8**

N O T R E D

The winning car is...

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

KEEP THE FUN GOING!

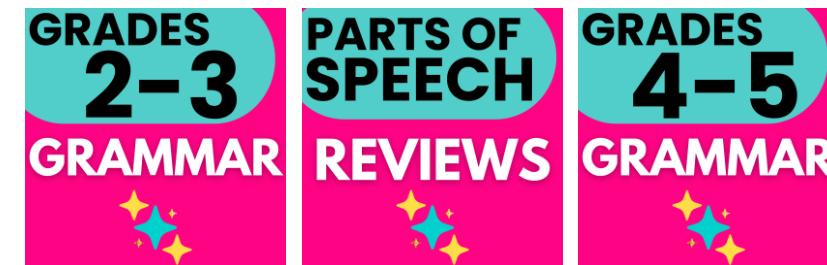
GRAB A MATH MYSTERY:

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!



THE BUNDLE