

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  red Starts  yellow Starts  green Starts  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.

hor _ n _ thor _ n _

Clue #5: Fill in the Blank

Read each word below. Find the matching picture above. Then write the word in each box.

Words:	Words:	Words:
storm 	corn 	boar 
fork 	more 	sore 
roar 	sort 	work 

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




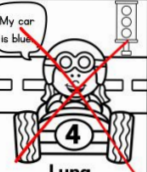

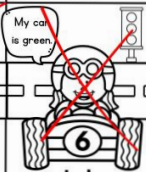


solve the mystery



The Case of the Big Race

Who Won the Race?

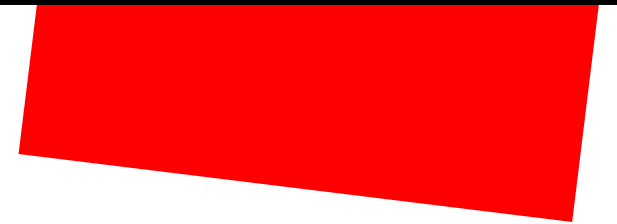
Figure out who won the big race by solving each clue.

 Ji My car is blue.	 Milo My car is green.	 Andres My car is red.	 Luna My car is blue.
 Leo My car is red.	 Jada My car is green.	 Eve My car is pink.	 Nobu My car is black.

Name: _____

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.

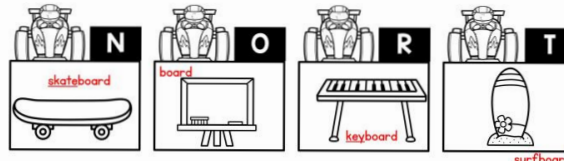
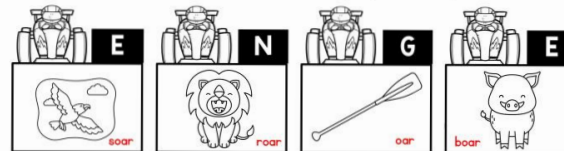
1. Take a list of racers and then start solving each clue.
2. Each time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering who won the race.
3. Cross out wrong race cars each time you find out new information. Good luck!



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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.



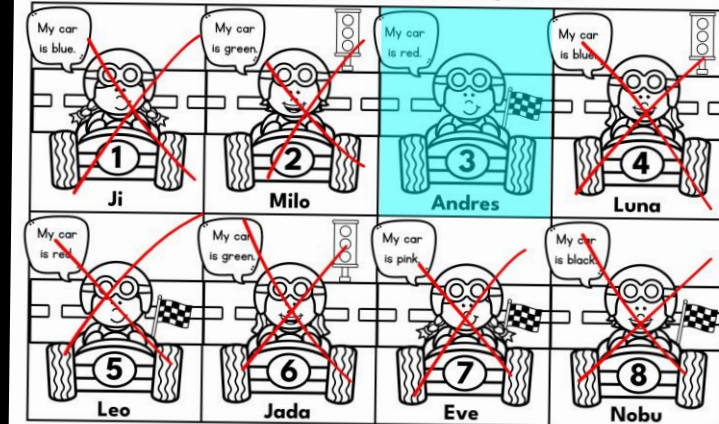
The winner's car is:

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

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Who Won the Race?

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



Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

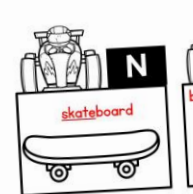
Each time students solve a clue, it will reveal which racers to cross out.
When all clues are completed, the mystery of the big race will be solved!

SKILL PRACTICE

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

Clue #1: Descrambler

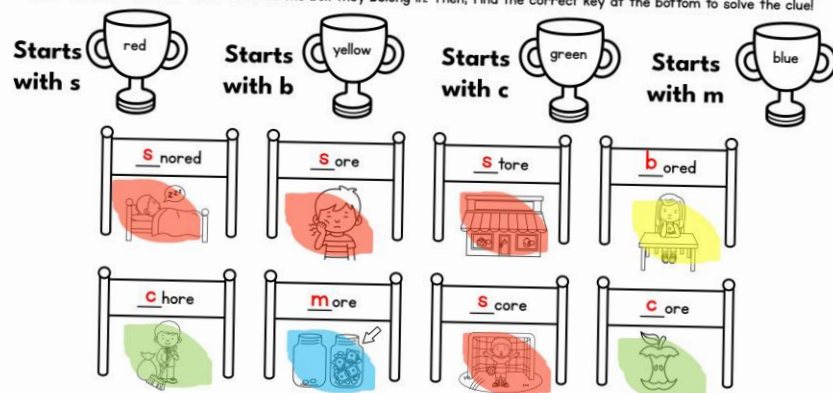
Look at the picture. Match it to a word below. Write the letter next to each race car on each line. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.



N O
roar board

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!



Cross out Car #1 if:
• 4 red
• 1 yellow
• 2 green
• 1 blue

Cross out Car #2 if:
• 4 red
• 1 yellow
• 1 green
• 2 blue

Cross out Car #3 if:
• 4 red
• 2 yellow
• 1 green
• 1 blue

Cross out Car #4 if:
• 3 red
• 1 yellow
• 2 green
• 2 blue

Clue #3: Error Analysis

Are the words the same? Put a check or an X next to each answer. Use the hint from the car with the most correct answers.

The winner's name has more than 3 letters.



All clues focus on reviewing R controlled vowels!

MULTIPLE VERSIONS



Print & Digital Forms

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!

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.

3 Clue Version

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!

Clue #3: Error Analysis

Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer.

Clue #4: Word Hunt

Fill in the last letter of each word.

Clue #5: Fill in the Blank

5 Clue Version

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

Cross out Car #1 if:
• 4 red
• 1 yellow
• 2 green
• 1 blue

Cross out Car #2 if:
• 4 red
• 1 yellow
• 1 green
• 2 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

Cross out Car #1 if:
• 4 red
• 1 yellow
• 2 green
• 1 blue

Cross out Car #2 if:
• 4 red
• 1 yellow
• 1 green
• 2 blue

Cross out Car #3 if:
• 4 red
• 2 yellow
• 1 green
• 1 blue

Cross out Car #4 if:
• 3 red
• 1 yellow
• 2 green
• 2 blue

Short & Long Options

CVC OPTION AVAILABLE



Who Won the Race?

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

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

Name: _____

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
	N		O		R		T

N

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 t	Starts with v	Starts with n	Starts with r

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.

 The winner's name has less than 3 letters.	 The winner's name has 3 letters.	 The winner's name has more than 3 letters.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> job	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fix
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fox

Clue #4: Word Hunt

Fill in the last letter of each word.

hu g	bi t	tu b
pe n	ba g	ru b
zi p	ro b	we b

What letter did you write the most? Circle it. Write word on line.

P = boy	G = red color
B = girl	T = black color

The winner was not a **girl**.

Clue #5: Fill in the Blank

Read each word below. Find the matching picture above. Then write the word in each box.

red	tire	Nobu	shortest	black	in
winner	longest	race	flag	the	hair
the	the	Andres	has	light	car

Word: The net the kit in

jug winner wig shortest mad the

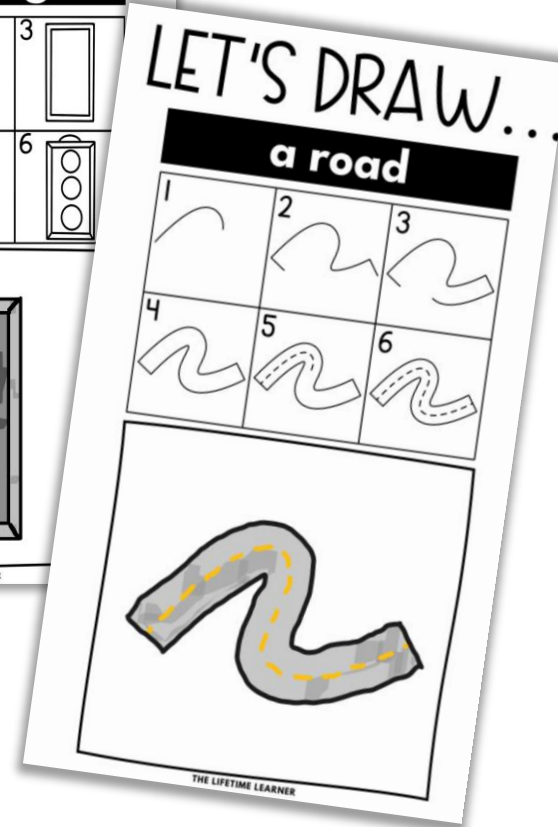
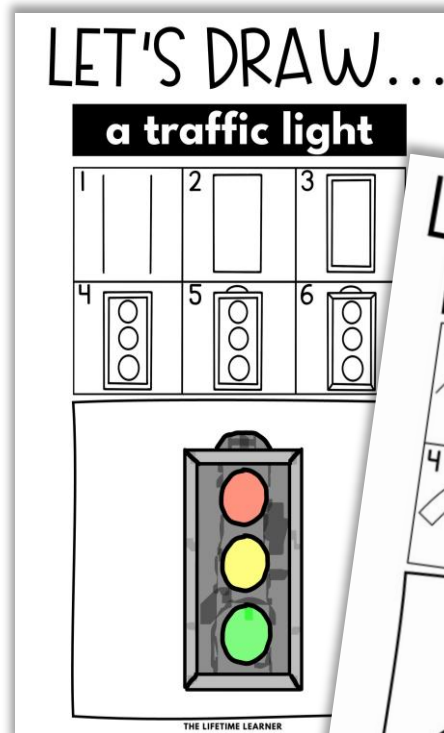
rat has nut hair pig race

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

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

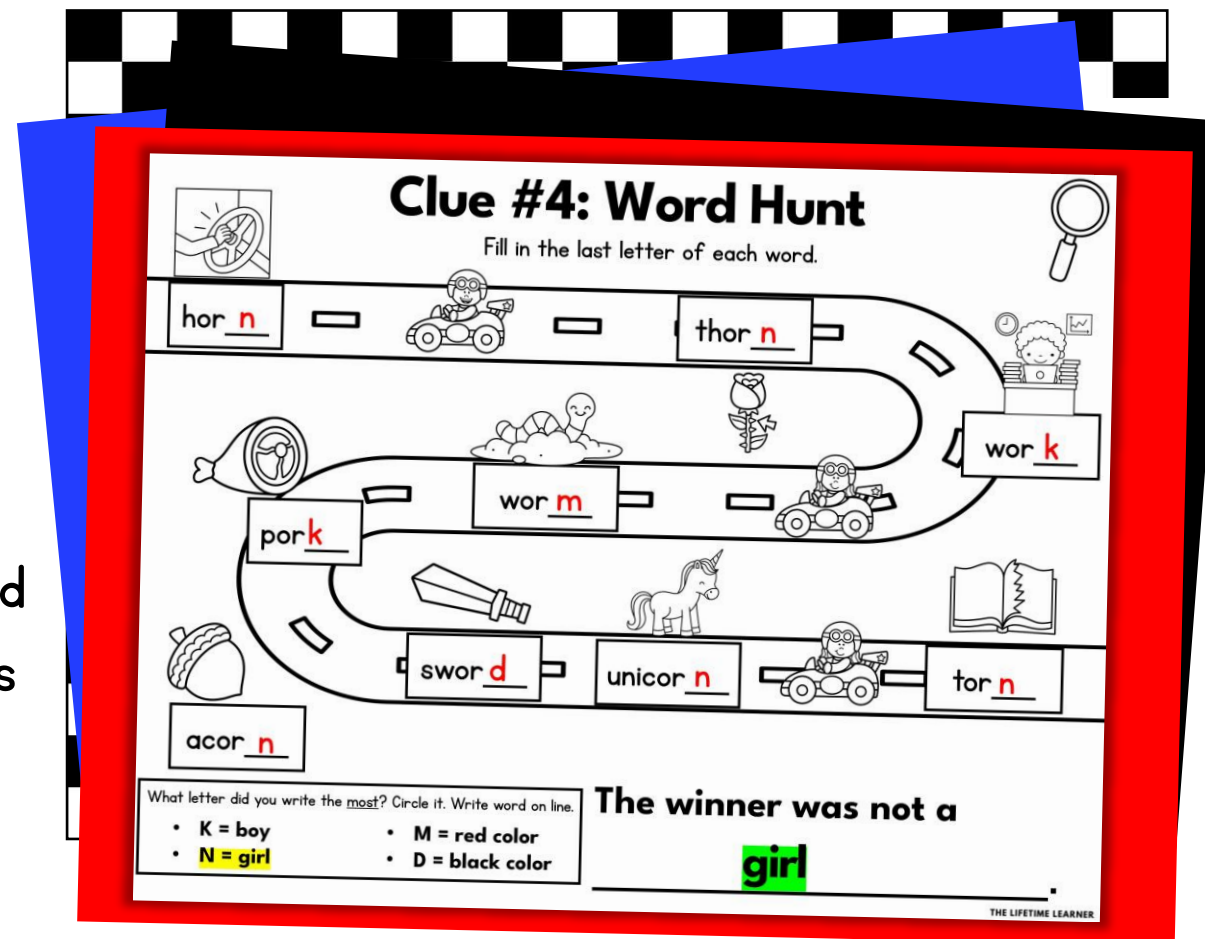


If students finish early,
give them a
certificate of completion
and a directed drawing
to complete while others
continue working.

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 #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.

hor n thor n

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

Words: storm corn boar fork more sore roar sort work

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 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 black.
Ji Milo Andres Luna

My car is red. My car is green. My car is pink. My car is black.
Leo Jada Eve 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

Example
of Clue 1

Math

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.







The winner's car is:

N O T G R E E N

roar board surfboard oar keyboard boar soar skateboard

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

Answers:

$13-3=\square$	$10-4=\square$	$12-6=\square$	$9-5=\square$	$12-4=\square$	$17-6=\square$
$3+\square=13$	$4+\square=10$	$6+\square=18$	$5+\square=9$	$4+\square=12$	$6+\square=17$

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 = 	

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!

