

WHAT IS THIS?



Clue #1: Multiple Choice
Tell what sound each picture shows. Circle the right answer. Then read the bottom.

Clue #2: Read It Like a Book
Circle the boxes that end in **-ang** or **-ing**.
Read the words at the top of each box you colored from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

Clue #3: Error Analysis
Do the words rhyme? Put a check or an X next to each answer.

Clue #4: Word Hunt
Fill in the ending blend for each word.

Clue #5: Fill in the Blank

stem	the	six	fruit	vine	nine
leaf	above	round	a	two	four
the	on	food	ten	grows	ground

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

tree	Word: <input type="text"/> The	braid	Word: <input type="text"/> above	feet	Word: <input type="text"/> on
fruit	Word: <input type="text"/> food	snail	Word: <input type="text"/> the	glue	Word: <input type="text"/> a
toad	Word: <input type="text"/> grows	fight	Word: <input type="text"/> ground	stay	Word: <input type="text"/> vine

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 Garden Thief

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

What Was Eaten?

Figure out what food was eaten out of the garden by solving each clue.

<i>purple in color</i> Onion	<i>green in color</i> Broccoli	<i>green in color</i> Lettuce	<i>red in color</i> Radish
<i>yellow in color</i> Corn	<i>green in color</i> Peas	<i>red in color</i> Tomato	<i>yellow in color</i> Pepper

Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Students complete a series of clues to figure out what food was stolen from the garden!

HOW TO PLAY



What Happened?

Every day, a deer comes to eat the food in your garden. You want to discover out which type of food the deer likes best so you can stop the deer from coming back. Solve the clues to figure out which food the deer keeps eating from your garden.

1. Take a list of food and start solving each clue.
2. Each time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering which food was eaten.
3. Cross out wrong foods each time you find out new information. Good luck!



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Clue #1: Multiple Choice

Tell what sound each picture shows. Circle the right answer. Then read the bottom.

 cookie	 pencil	 cage	 coat	 gift
A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G	A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G	A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G	A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G	A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G
 mice	 cake	 egg	 city	 magic
A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G	A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G	A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G	A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G	A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G

Circle how many you chose in each box below. Then, read the phrase to know what to cross out.

How many As did you circle? 1 A = comes 2 As = does 3 As = does not 4 As = grows	How many Bs did you circle? 1 B = red 2 Bs = green 3 Bs = look 4 Bs = yellow	How many Cs did you circle? 1 C = pod 2 Cs = like 3 Cs = round 4 Cs = purple	How many Ds did you circle? 1 D = small 2 Ds = tree 3 Ds = leaf 4 Ds = stem
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THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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Figure out what food was eaten out of the garden by solving each clue.

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<i>yellow in color</i>  Corn	<i>green in color</i>  Peas	<i>red in color</i>  Tomato	<i>yellow in color</i>  Pepper

Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Each time students solve a clue, it will reveal what vegetables to cross out. When all clues are completed, the mystery of the garden thief will be solved!

SKILL PRACTICE

Clue #1: Multiple Choice
Tell what sound each picture shows. Circle the right answer. Then read the bottom.

cookie pencil cage coat gift

A. soft C
B. hard C
C. soft G
D. hard G

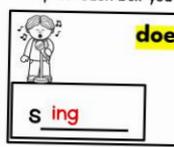
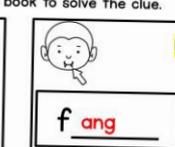
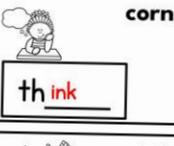
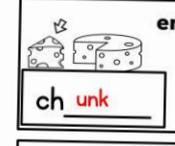
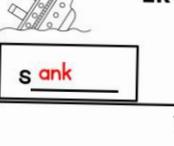
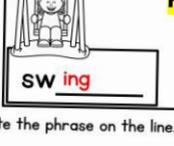
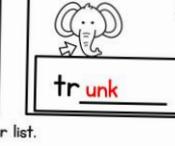
A. soft C
B. hard C
C. soft G
D. hard G

Circle how many you chose in each row.

How many As did you circle?
1 A = comes
2 As = does
3 As = does not
4 As = grows

How many Bs did you circle?
1 B = does
2 Bs = does not
3 Bs = comes
4 Bs = grows

Clue #2: Read It Like a Book
Circle the boxes that end in -ang or -ing.
Read the words at the top of each box you colored from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

 h ang	 s ing	 sk unk	 f ang
 th ink	 r ang	 ch unk	 w ing
 s ank	 sw ing	 h onk	 tr unk

Write the phrase on the line. Cross the wrong foods off your list.

FOOD DOES NOT START WITH P

Clue #3: Error Analysis
Which words rhyme? Put a check or an X next to each answer. Use the hint from the animal with the most correct answers.

The food does not end in O.

mule and rule
 cane and cave
 time and dime

- 1st Grade Phonics Review
- Soft and Hard C & G
- CVCe Words
- Glued Sounds
- Final Blends
- Long Vowel Sounds

All clues focus on reviewing 1st grade phonic skills!

MULTIPLE VERSIONS



Print & Digital Forms

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Do the words rhyme? Put a check or an X next to each answer.
Read the hint from the animal with the most correct answers.

3 Clue Version

The first word does not end in O.

kite and bite rode and rose mule and rule
 joke and poke cake and lake cane and cave
 name and game bite and bike time and dime

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Clue #5: Fill in the Blank

stem	the	six	fruit	vine	nine
leaf	above	round	a	two	four
the			ground		

Read the words in order from top to bottom in each row to figure out the clue.

5 Clue Version

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

Clue #1: Multiple Choice
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cookie	pencil	cage	coat	gift
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mice	cake	egg	city	magic
A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G	A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G	A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G	A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G	A. soft C B. hard C C. soft G D. hard G

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Short & Long Options

CVC OPTION AVAILABLE



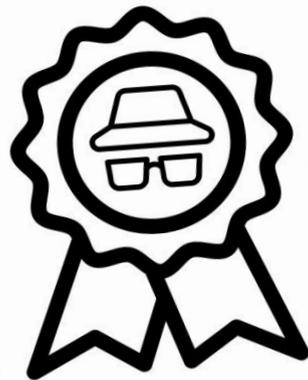
Differentiate within your small groups. Same clues. Same mystery. Different focus!

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

FAST FINISHER ACTIVITY



The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:



Lindsay

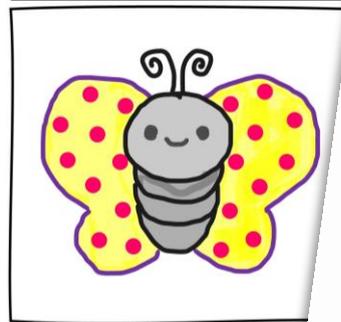
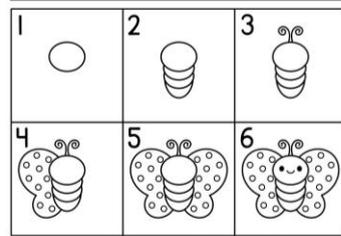
You solved the mystery!

11/2
Date

AW
Presented by:

LET'S DRAW...

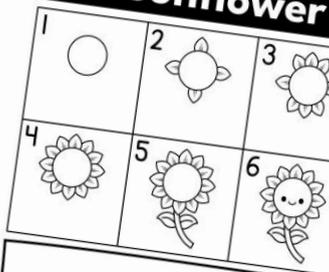
a butterfly



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

LET'S DRAW...

a sunflower



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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: Phonics Review Mystery OR CVC Words Mystery. You can even mix/match clues to combine the 2 skills together (clues are interchangeable)!

Clue #4: Word Hunt
Fill in the ending blend for each word.

The worksheet features several illustrations: a CD, a ghost, a whisk in a bowl, a girl gasping, a fence with flowers, a bandaged hand, a boy with a question mark, a girl with glasses, and a toaster. Word cards are placed around these illustrations, some with missing ending blends: 'di sk', 'gho st', 'whi sk', 'ga sp', 'ca st', 'a sk', 'ma sk', and 'toa st'. A legend at the bottom left explains the ending blends: ST = green, SK = red, SP = leafy, and SH = round. A section at the bottom right asks 'The food is' followed by a blank line with the word 'red' written in a green box.

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

• ST = green	• SP = leafy
• SK = red	• SH = round

The food is red.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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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stem	the	six	fruit	vine	nine
leaf	above	round	a	two	four
the	on	food	ten	grows	ground

Word: tree The braid above feet on

Word: fruit food snail the glue a

Word: toad grows fight ground stay vine

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

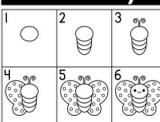
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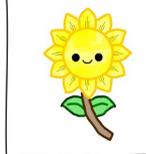
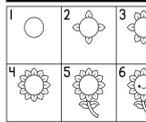
You solved the mystery!

11/2 Date Presented by: **SW**

LET'S DRAW...
a butterfly



LET'S DRAW...
a sunflower



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yellow in color  Corn	green in color  Peas	red in color  Tomato	yellow in color  Pepper

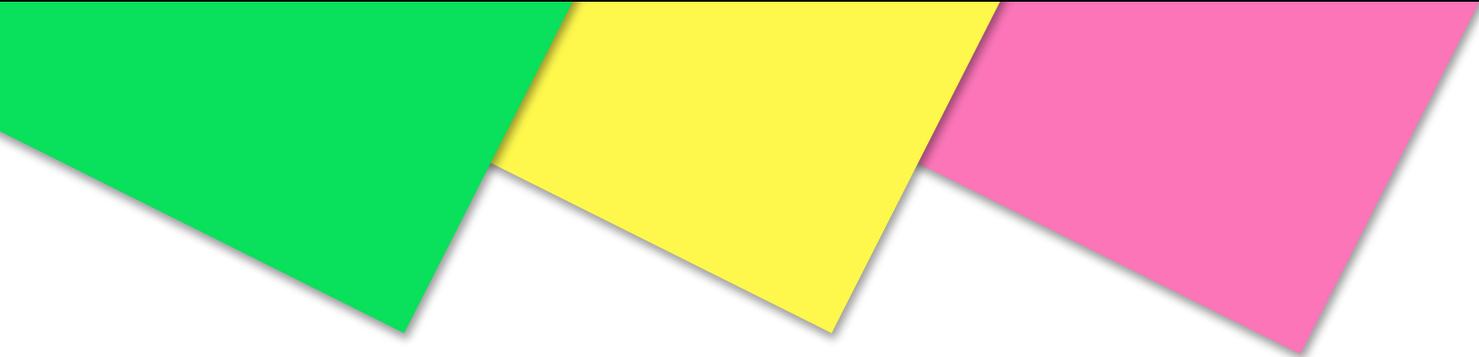
Name: _____

solve the mystery



The Case of the Garden Thief

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

Math

Clue #1: Multiple Choice

Tell what sound each picture shows. Circle the right answer. Then read the bottom.

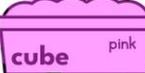
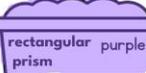
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Clue #1: Sorting Water Cans

Look at the 3D shape on each watering can. Color the watering cans the same color as the soil they belong with. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

 pink	 purple	 green	 blue
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Cross out the radish if there are: • 2 pink water cans • 3 purple water cans • 2 green water cans • 3 blue water cans	Cross out the tomato if there are: • 2 pink water cans • 2 purple water cans • 3 green water cans • 3 blue water cans	Cross out the peas if there are: • 3 pink water cans • 3 purple water cans • 2 green water cans • 2 blue water cans	Cross out the broccoli if there are: • 3 pink water cans • 2 purple water cans • 3 green water cans • 2 blue water cans
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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!

