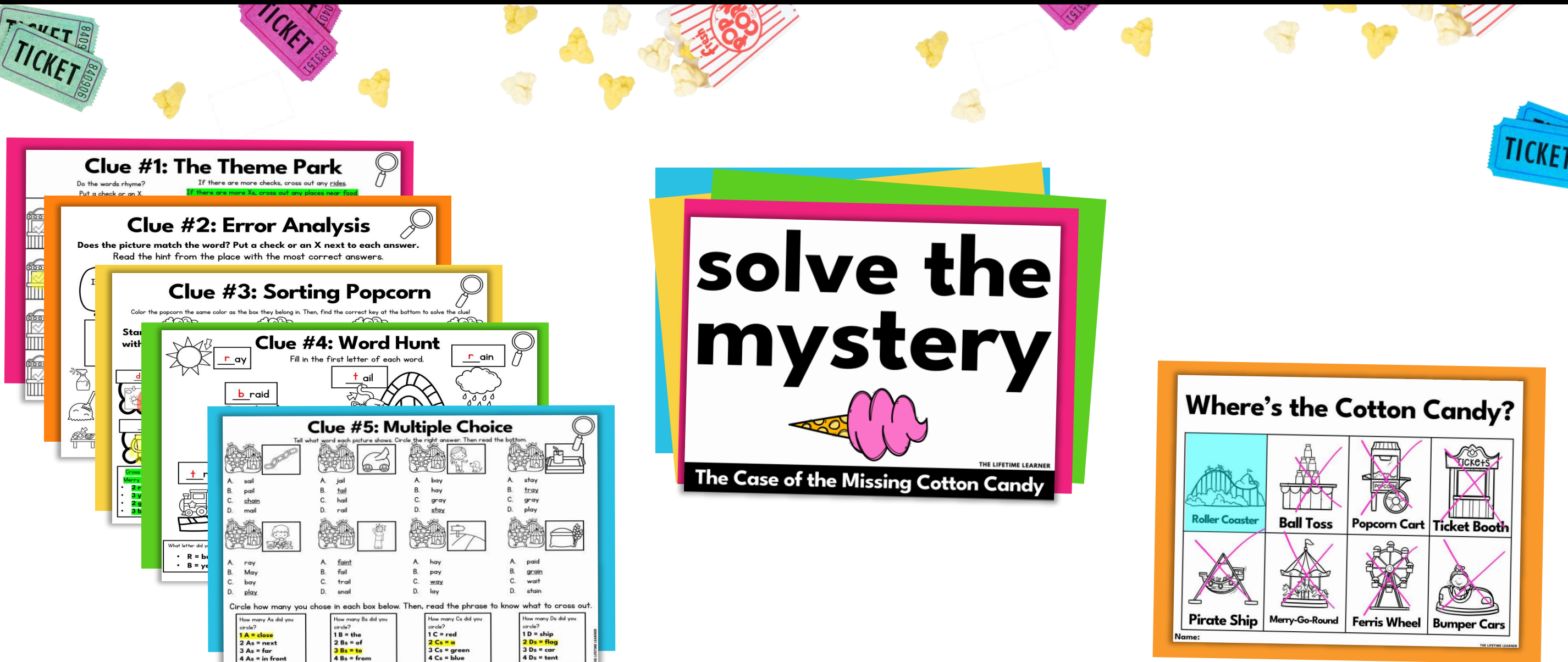


WHAT IS THIS?



The image features a collage of theme park-related items at the top, including several tickets (one green, one pink, one blue) and scattered popcorn. Below this, a stack of clue cards is shown. The top card is titled "solve the mystery" and "The Case of the Missing Cotton Candy" by "THE LIFETIME LEARNER". It features a pink cotton candy illustration. To the right, a card titled "Where's the Cotton Candy?" shows a grid of eight theme park rides with pink X marks over them, indicating they are not the location. The rides are: Roller Coaster, Ball Toss, Popcorn Cart, Ticket Booth, Pirate Ship, Merry-Go-Round, Ferris Wheel, and Bumper Cars. The bottom card is titled "Clue #5: Multiple Choice" and contains a grid of eight small images with corresponding multiple-choice options. The clues are:

- Clue #1: The Theme Park**
Do the words rhyme? If there are more checks, cross out any rides.
Put a check or an X. If there are more Xs, cross out any places near food.
- Clue #2: Error Analysis**
Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer.
Read the hint from the place with the most correct answers.
- Clue #3: Sorting Popcorn**
Color the popcorn the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!
- Clue #4: Word Hunt**
Fill in the first letter of each word.
- Clue #5: Multiple Choice**
Tell what word each picture shows. Circle the right answer. Then read the bottom.

The multiple-choice options for Clue #5 are:

Picture	Options
Roller Coaster	A. sail B. pail C. chain D. mail
Ball Toss	A. jail B. tail C. hail D. rail
Popcorn Cart	A. bay B. hay C. gray D. stay
Ticket Booth	A. stay B. tray C. gray D. play
Pirate Ship	A. ray B. May C. bay D. play
Merry-Go-Round	A. faint B. fail C. trail D. snail
Ferris Wheel	A. hay B. pay C. way D. lay
Bumper Cars	A. paid B. grain C. wait D. stain

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?	How many Bs did you circle?	How many Cs did you circle?	How many Ds did you circle?
1 A = close 2 As = next 3 As = far 4 As = in front	1 B = the 2 Bs = of 3 Bs = to 4 Bs = from	1 C = red 2 Cs = a 3 Cs = green 4 Cs = blue	1 D = ship 2 Ds = flag 3 Ds = car 4 Ds = tent

Students complete a series of clues to figure out where the cotton candy is!

HOW TO PLAY

What Happened?

Oh no! You accidentally left your cotton candy somewhere in the theme park and can't find it. Now, it's your job to search the park and find out where it is. Solve each clue to figure out the mystery. Every time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering where the cotton candy is! Good luck!

1. Take a list of places and then start solving each clue.
2. Each time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering where the cotton candy is.
3. Cross out wrong places each time you find out new information. Good luck!



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Clue #1: The Theme Park

Do the words rhyme?
Put a check or an X.

If there are more checks, cross out any rides.
If there are more Xs, cross out any places near food.

Where's the Cotton Candy?

Roller Coaster	Ball Toss	Popcorn Cart	Ticket Booth
Pirate Ship	Merry-Go-Round	Ferris Wheel	Bumper Cars

Name: _____

Each time students solve a clue, it will reveal what place(s) to cross out.

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

SKILL PRACTICE

- Long A Review
- Rhyming Words
- Onset and Rime
- AI Words
- AY Words

Clue #1: The Theme Park

Do the words rhyme?
Put a check or an X.

If there are more checks, cross out any rides.
If there are more Xs, cross out any places near food.

brain and braid
day and hay
hail and rain
aim and pay

Clue #2: Error Analysis

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

It is not by a game.
Ball Toss
spray ☒ spray
clay ☒ clay
hay ☒ hay

It is close to a ride.
Roller Coaster
way ☒ way
tray ☒ tray
say ☒ say

It is not up high in the sky.
Pirate Ship
play ☒ play
pay ☒ pay
day ☒ day

Clue #3: Sorting Popcorn

the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

Starts with p
Starts with t

green
blue

ail
ray
aint

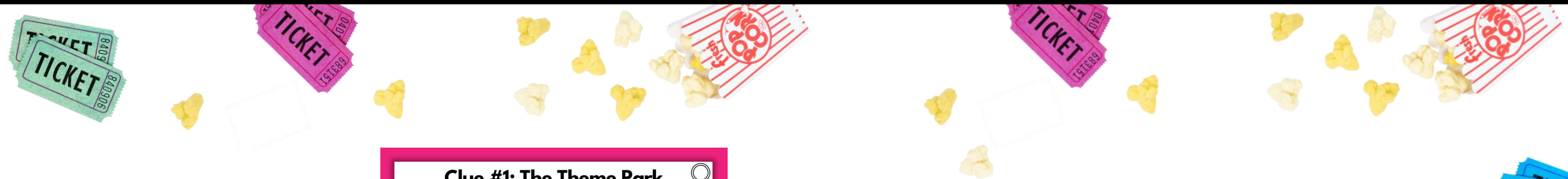
Ship and are are:
ls
s

Cross out Roller Coaster and Merry Go Round if there are:
• 3 red kernels
• 2 yellow kernels
• 3 green kernels
• 2 blue kernels

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

All clues focus on reviewing Long A!

MULTIPLE VERSIONS



Print & Digital Forms



Clue #1: The Theme Park

Do the words rhyme? If there are more checks, cross out any rides.
Put a check or an X.

Clue #2: Error Analysis

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

Clue #3: Sorting Popcorn

Color the popcorn the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

3 Clue Version

Clue #1: The Theme Park

Do the words rhyme? If there are more checks, cross out any rides.
Put a check or an X.

Clue #2: Error Analysis

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

Clue #3: Sorting Popcorn

Color the popcorn the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

Clue #4: Word Hunt

Fill in the first letter of each word.

Clue #5: Multiple Choice

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

5 Clue Version

Clue #3: Sorting Popcorn

Color the popcorn the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

Starts with d (red) Starts with p (yellow) Starts with s (green) Starts with t (blue)

Key:

- 2 red kernels
- 3 yellow kernels
- 2 green kernels
- 3 blue kernels

Cross out the Ferris Wheel and Merry Go Round if there are:

- 2 red kernels
- 2 yellow kernels
- 3 green kernels
- 3 blue kernels

Cross out the Bumper Cars and Pirate Ship if there are:

- 2 red kernels
- 2 yellow kernels
- 3 green kernels
- 3 blue kernels

Cross out the Pirate Ship and Ferris Wheel if there are:

- 3 red kernels
- 3 yellow kernels
- 2 green kernels
- 2 blue kernels

Clue #3: Sorting Popcorn

Color the popcorn the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

Starts with d (red) Starts with p (yellow) Starts with s (green) Starts with t (blue)

Key:

- 2 red kernels
- 3 yellow kernels
- 2 green kernels
- 3 blue kernels

Cross out the Ferris Wheel and Merry Go Round if there are:

- 2 red kernels
- 2 yellow kernels
- 3 green kernels
- 3 blue kernels

Cross out the Bumper Cars and Pirate Ship if there are:

- 2 red kernels
- 2 yellow kernels
- 3 green kernels
- 3 blue kernels

Cross out the Pirate Ship and Ferris Wheel if there are:

- 3 red kernels
- 3 yellow kernels
- 2 green kernels
- 2 blue kernels

Cross out the Roller Coaster and Merry Go Round if there are:

- 3 red kernels
- 2 yellow kernels
- 3 green kernels
- 2 blue kernels

Short & Long Options

CVC OPTION AVAILABLE



Where's the Cotton Candy?

 Roller Coaster	 Ball Toss	 Popcorn Cart	 Ticket Booth
 Pirate Ship	 Merry-Go-Round	 Ferris Wheel	 Bumper Cars

Name: _____

Clue #1: The Theme Park
Do the words rhyme? Put a check or an X.
If there are more checks, cross out any rides.
If there are more Xs, cross out any places near food.

 bag and pan	 box and fox
 fun and sun	 jug and rug
 box and box	 pen and pen

Clue #2: Error Analysis
Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer.
Read the hint from the place with the most correct answers.

It is not by a game.  Ball Toss	It is close to a ride.  Roller Coaster	It is not up high in the sky.  Pirate Ship
--	---	---

Clue #3: Sorting Popcorn
Color the popcorn the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

Starts with j  j _ _ _	Starts with f  f _ _ _	Starts with s  s _ _ _	Starts with b  b _ _ _
---	---	---	---

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

It is on a ride you go on with.

Clue #5: Multiple Choice
Tell what word each picture shows. Circle the right answer. Then read the bottom.

 A. hip B. zap C. zip D. tip	 A. dig B. dig C. den D. dot	 A. get B. gas C. gem D. gum	 A. jam B. job C. jet D. jug
--	--	--	--

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 = close 2 As = next 3 As = far 4 As = in front	How many Bs did you circle? 1 B = the 2 Bs = of 3 Bs = to 4 Bs = from	How many Cs did you circle? 1 C = red 2 Cs = a 3 Cs = green 4 Cs = blue	How many Ds did you circle? 1 D = ship 2 Ds = flag 3 Ds = car 4 Ds = tent
--	---	---	---

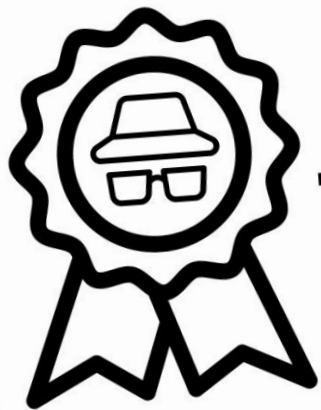
Differentiate within your small groups. Same clues. Same mystery. Different focus!

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

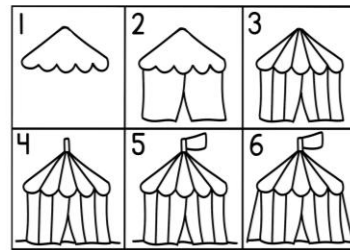
You solved the mystery!

11/2
Date

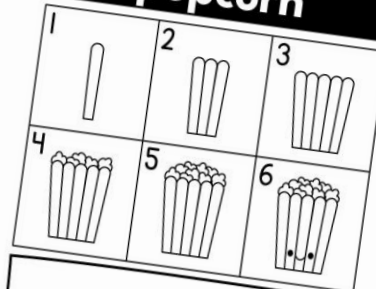
AW
Presented by:

LET'S DRAW...

a carnival tent



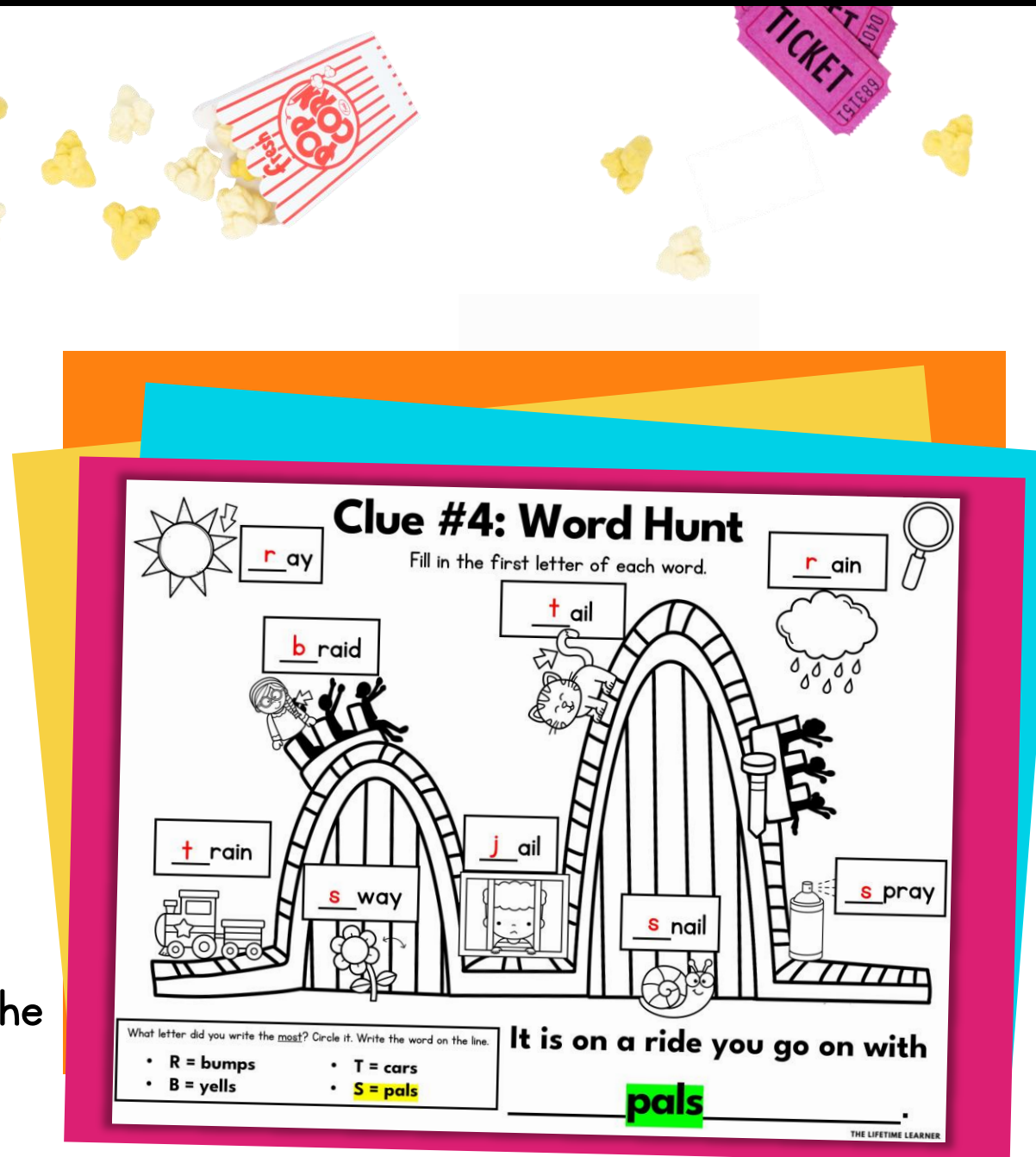
LET'S DRAW...
popcorn



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: Long A 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: The Theme Park
Do the words rhyme? If there are more checks, cross out any rides.
Put a check or an X. *If there are more Xs, cross out any places near Food.*

Clue #2: Error Analysis
Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer.
Read the hint from the place with the most correct answers.

Clue #3: Sorting Popcorn
Color the popcorn the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

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

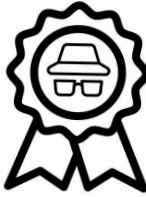
Clue #5: Multiple Choice
Tell what word each picture shows. Circle the right answer. Then read the bottom.

 A. sail B. pail C. chain D. mail	 A. jail B. tail C. hail D. rail	 A. bay B. hay C. gray D. stay	 A. stay B. tray C. gray D. play
 A. ray B. May C. bay D. play	 A. faint B. fail C. trail D. snail	 A. hay B. pay C. way D. lay	 A. paid B. grain C. wait D. stain

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 = close 2 As = next 3 As = far 4 As = in front	How many Bs did you circle? 1 B = the 2 Bs = of 3 Bs = to 4 Bs = from	How many Cs did you circle? 1 C = red 2 Cs = a 3 Cs = green 4 Cs = blue	How many Ds did you circle? 1 D = ship 2 Ds = flag 3 Ds = car 4 Ds = tent
--	---	---	---

The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:

 **Lindsay**
You solved the mystery!

11/2 Date AW Presented by:


LET'S DRAW...
a carnival tent

1 2 3
4 5 6


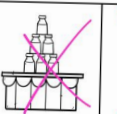

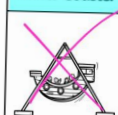
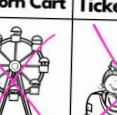


LET'S DRAW...
popcorn

1 2 3
4 5 6




Where's the Cotton Candy?

 Roller Coaster	 Ball Toss	 Popcorn Cart	 Ticket Booth
 Pirate Ship	 Merry-Go-Round	 Ferris Wheel	 Bumper Cars

Name: _____

solve the mystery



The Case of the Missing Cotton Candy

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: The Theme Park













Do the words rhyme?
Put a check or an X.

If there are more checks, cross out any rides.
If there are more Xs, cross out any places near food.

						
	braid			tail and pail		
						
	hay			mail and nail		
						
	hail and rain			maid and stay		
						
	aim and pay			pain and paint		

Clue #1: Find It!

Solve each question. Circle the boxes that equal 15.
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

 15 the	 14 merry	 15 cotton	 13 go
 5 candy	 12 round	 15 is	 15 not
 15 near	 14 pirate	 15 animals	 16 balls

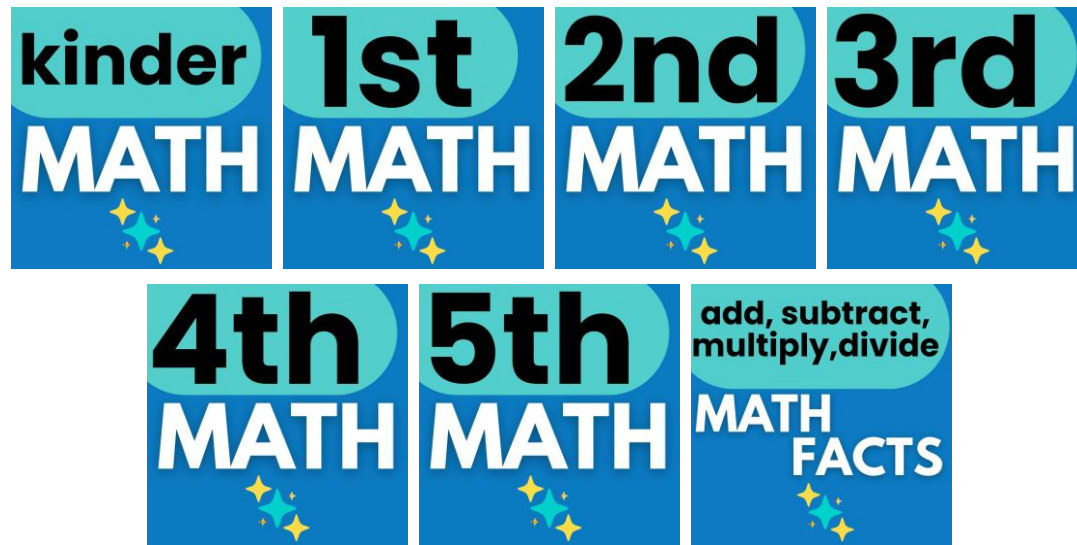
Write the phrase on the line. Cross the wrong place off your list.

The cotton candy is not near animals

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!

