

WHAT IS THIS?

Clue #1: Error Analysis
Do the words rhyme? Put a check or an X next to each answer.
Read the hint from the kid with the least correct answers.

Clue #2: Picture Decoder
Find each answer. Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

Clue #3: Color the Zoo
What does each word begin with? Color in each. Then, read the bottom.

Clue #4: Word Hunt
Cross out all the words.

Clue #5: Find It!
Circle the boxes that start with **shr**.
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

What Animal Escaped?
Solve the clues to figure out what animal is missing at the zoo.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I live in the Mountain Zone at the zoo. Panda	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I live in the Forest Zone at the zoo. Peacock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I live in Forest Zone at the zoo. Snake	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I live in Water Zone at the zoo. Seal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I live in the Arctic Zone at the zoo. Penguin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I live in Water Zone at the zoo. Flamingo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I live in the Arctic Zone at the zoo. Polar Bear	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I live in the African Zone at the zoo. Hippo

Name: _____

THE ANIMAL IS BLACK AND WHITE

Students complete a series of clues to figure out what animal escaped the zoo!

HOW TO PLAY

What Happened?

An animal has escaped from the zoo! You need to know what animal it is so the animal can be located. Help figure out which animal is missing by solving the clues.

1. Take a list of animals and then start solving each clue.
2. Each time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering what animal is missing.
3. Cross out wrong animals each time you find out new information. Good luck!



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Clue #1: Error Analysis

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

<p>The animal is not from the Forest Zone.</p> <p>ring string <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>splat rat <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>sprint walk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The animal is not from the Arctic Zone.</p> <p>split spot <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>strap stick <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>shrink shell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The animal is not from the African Zone.</p> <p>shrub scrub <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>splash cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>strip flip <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
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What Animal Escaped?

Solve the clues to figure out what animal is missing at the zoo.

<p>I live in the Mountain Zone at the zoo.</p> <p>Panda</p>	<p>I live in the Forest Zone at the zoo.</p> <p>Peacock</p>	<p>I live in Forest Zone at the zoo.</p> <p>Snake</p>	<p>I live in Water Zone at the zoo.</p> <p>Seal</p>
<p>I live in the Arctic Zone at the zoo.</p> <p>Penguin</p>	<p>I live in Water Zone at the zoo.</p> <p>Flamingo</p>	<p>I live in the Arctic Zone at the zoo.</p> <p>Polar Bear</p>	<p>I live in the African Zone at the zoo.</p> <p>Hippo</p>

Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Each time students solve a clue, it will reveal what animal(s) to cross out.
When all clues are completed, the mystery of the zoo animal will be solved!

SKILL PRACTICE

- 3 Letter Blends Review
- THR Words
- SPL Words
- STR Words
- SHR Words
- SCR Words
- SPR Words
- Beginning Sounds

The image shows three overlapping worksheets designed for practicing 3-letter blends. The top-left worksheet, titled 'Clue #1: Error Analysis', has an orange border and asks students to check or mark incorrect words based on a rhyme clue. The top-right worksheet, titled 'Clue #3: Color the Zoo', has a blue border and involves coloring zoo animals based on a list of 3-letter blends. The bottom-center worksheet, titled 'Clue #2: Picture Decoder', has a green border and features a matching game between words and pictures, followed by a letter decoder grid.

Clue #1: Error Analysis
Do the words rhyme? Put a check or an X next to each answer.
Read the hint from the kid with the least correct answers.

The animal is not from the Forest Zone.

ring string ✓
splat rat ✓
sprint walk ✗

Clue #3: Color the Zoo
What does each word begin with? Color in each. Then, read the bottom.

scr - color it red
shr - color it green
spl - color it yellow
str - color it blue

scr - color it red
shr - color it green
spl - color it yellow
str - color it blue

for your next hint!
• 2 red
• 3 blue
• 1 green
• 10 yellow
The animal does not have spots.

Clue #2: Picture Decoder
Find each answer. Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

shrimp spring shrug splash sprint

Letters: A T A I L

The animal does not have

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 =	

All clues focus on reviewing 3 letter blends!

MULTIPLE VERSIONS

Print & Digital Forms

3 Clue
Version

5 Clue
Version

Short & Long Options

Clue #1: Error Analysis













Do the words rhyme? Put a check or an X next to each answer.

Clue #2: Picture Decoder

Find each answer. Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

Clue #3: Color the Zoo

What does each word begin with? Color in each. Then, read the bottom.

					
<input type="checkbox"/> scr - color it red <input type="checkbox"/> shr - color it green <input type="checkbox"/> spl - color it yellow <input type="checkbox"/> str - color it blue	<input type="checkbox"/> scr - color it red <input type="checkbox"/> shr - color it green <input type="checkbox"/> spl - color it yellow <input type="checkbox"/> str - color it blue	<input type="checkbox"/> scr - color it red <input type="checkbox"/> shr - color it green <input type="checkbox"/> spl - color it yellow <input type="checkbox"/> str - color it blue	<input type="checkbox"/> scr - color it red <input type="checkbox"/> shr - color it green <input type="checkbox"/> spl - color it yellow <input type="checkbox"/> str - color it blue	<input type="checkbox"/> scr - color it red <input type="checkbox"/> shr - color it green <input type="checkbox"/> spl - color it yellow <input type="checkbox"/> str - color it blue	<input type="checkbox"/> scr - color it red <input type="checkbox"/> shr - color it green <input type="checkbox"/> spl - color it yellow <input type="checkbox"/> str - color it blue
					
<ul style="list-style-type: none">2 red2 blue1 green1 yellow <p>The animal does not go in a tree.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2 blue0 green1 yellow <p>The animal does not have long legs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3 blue0 green1 yellow <p>The animal does not lay any eggs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3 blue1 green10 yellow <p>The animal does not have spots.</p>		

Clue #1: Error Analysis

Do the words rhyme? Put a check or an X next to each answer.

Clue #2: Picture Decoder

Find each answer. Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

Clue #3: Color the Zoo








What does each word begin with? Color in each. Then, read the bottom.

Clue #4: Word Hunt

Cross out all the words.

Clue #5: Find It!

Circle the boxes that start with shr. Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

no	the	big	animal
			
		trunk	stretch
		strips	shrink

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

THE ANIMAL IS BLACK AND WHITE

CVC OPTION AVAILABLE

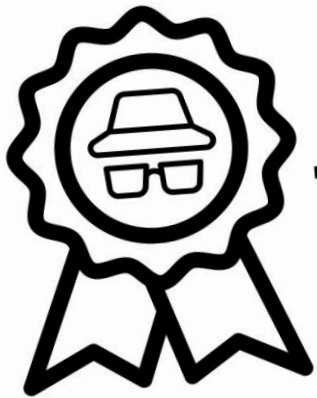


Differentiate within your small groups. Same clues. Same mystery. Different focus!

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

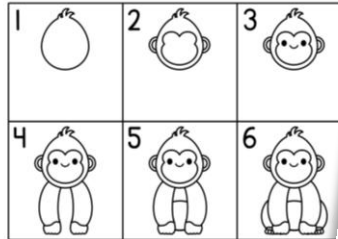
You solved the mystery!

11/2
Date

AW
Presented by:

LET'S DRAW...

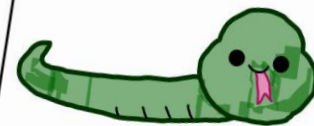
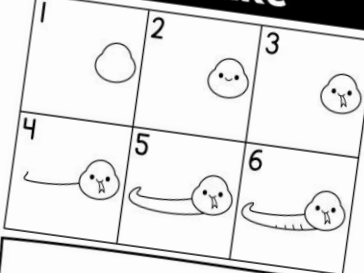
a gorilla



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

LET'S DRAW...

a snake

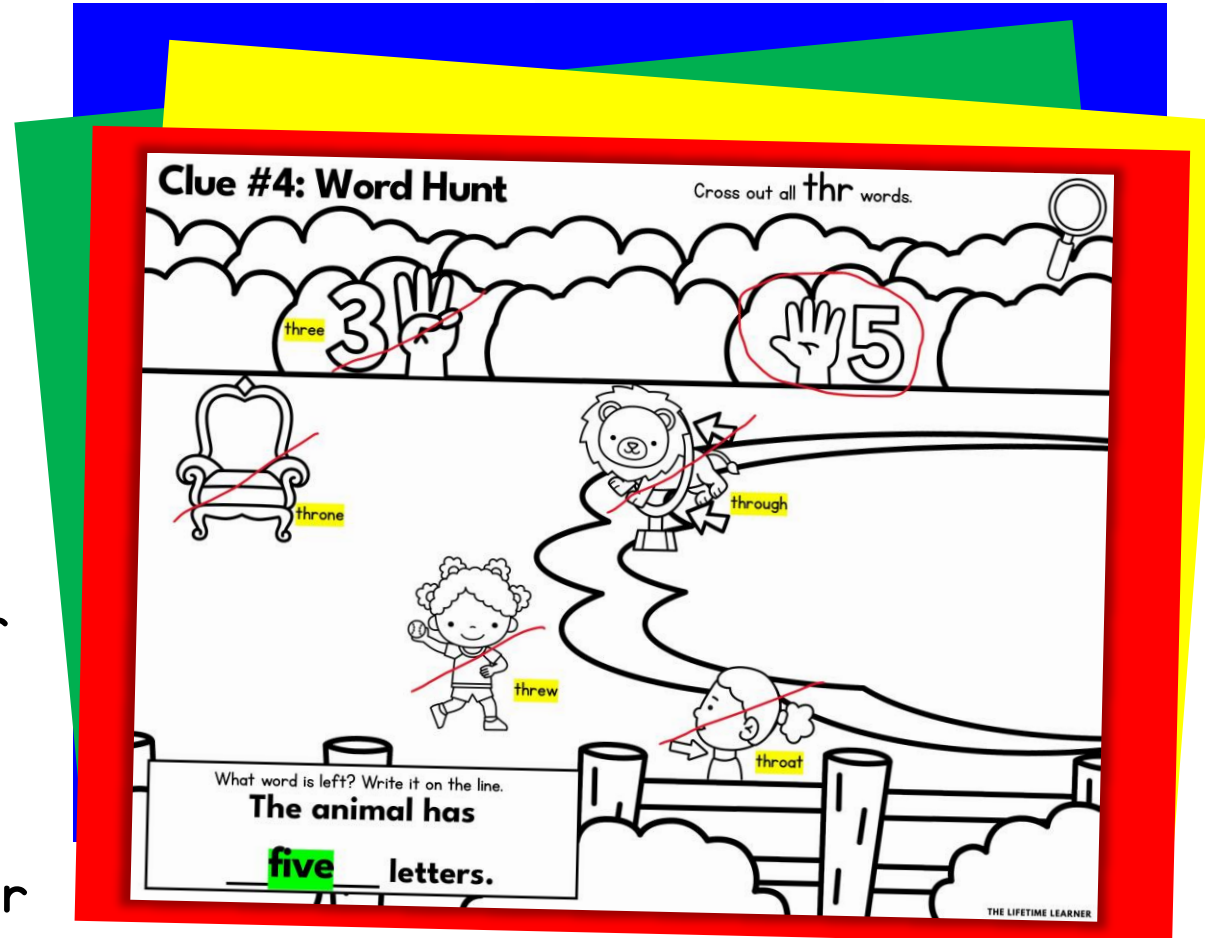


THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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: 3 Letter Blends 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 #4: Word Hunt
Cross out all **thr** words.

Clue #5: Find It!
Circle the boxes that start with **shr**.
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:

Lindsay
You solved the mystery!
Date **11/2** Presented by: **AW**

LET'S DRAW... a gorilla



LET'S DRAW... a snake



What Animal Escaped?
Solve the clues to figure out what animal is missing at the zoo.


Panda
I live in the Mountain Zone at the zoo.


Peacock
I live in the Forest Zone at the zoo.


Snake
I live in Forest Zone at the zoo.


Seal
I live in Water Zone at the zoo.


Penguin
I live in the Arctic Zone at the zoo.


Flamingo
I live in Water Zone at the zoo.


Polar Bear
I live in the Arctic Zone at the zoo.


Hippo
I live in the African Zone at the zoo.

no

sprint

the

shrimp

big

splash

animal

shrub

pet

throb

paws

squirrel

is

shrug

trunk

stretch

black

shred

and

shred

gray

strips

white

shrink

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

THE ANIMAL IS BLACK AND WHITE

solve the mystery


The Case of the Missing Zoo Animal

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: Error Analysis

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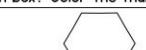
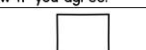






The animal is not from the Arctic Zone.

The animal is not from the African Zone.

 ring string	 split spot	 shrub scrub
 splat rat	 strap stick	 splash cash
 sprint walk	 shrink shell	 strip flip

Clue #1: Right or Wrong?

What shape is in each box? Color the thumb in to show if you agree.

 rectangle	 hexagon	 square
 octagon	 triangle	 pentagon
 oval	 trapezoid	 circle

In each box, color a thumbs up or a thumbs down to show if the answer is correct.

How many answers were correct?

1 Correct = Cross out the panda. 2 Correct = Cross out the peacock. 3 Correct = Cross out the snake. 4 Correct = Cross out the seal.	5 Correct = Cross out the polar bear. 6 Correct = Cross out the flamingo. 7 Correct = Cross out the penguin. 8 Correct = Cross out the hippo.
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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!**

