

# WHAT IS THIS?

**Clue #1: Missing Letters**  
First, fill in the missing vowel sound for each word.  
Then, read what to do at the bottom.

**Clue #2: Multiple Choice**  
Circle the right answer and color in the matching box. Then read the bottom.

**Clue #3: Right or Wrong**  
Does the picture match the sentence? Color the thumb in to show if you agree.

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**

**Clue #5: Descrambler**  
Write the letters on the correct spot at the bottom. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

**solve the mystery**

**The Case of the Mysterious Package**

**What's in the Box?**  
Figure out what's in the mystery box by solving each clue.

 Fried Chicken	 Flowers	 Basketball	 Video Game
 Dog	 Books	 Robot Game	 Taco

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Students complete a series of clues to figure out what's in the mystery box!

# HOW TO PLAY

## What Happened?

This morning, a mysterious box arrived on your doorstep. You don't know what's inside, but it's up to you to figure it out by completing a set of clues.

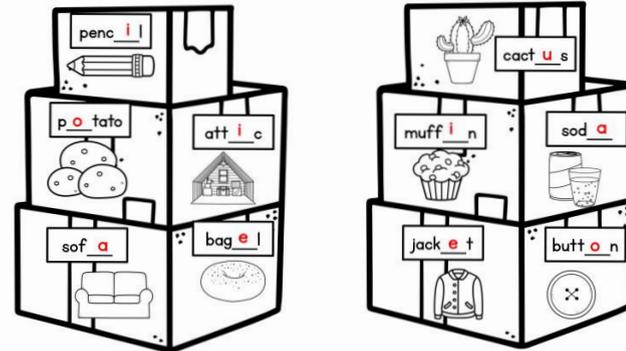
1. Take a list of mystery items and then start solving each clue.
2. Each time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering what is inside the mystery box.
3. Cross out wrong boxes each time you find out new information. Good luck!



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## Clue #1: Missing Letters

First, fill in the missing vowel sound for each word.  
Then, read what to do at the bottom.



The item in the box does NOT have:

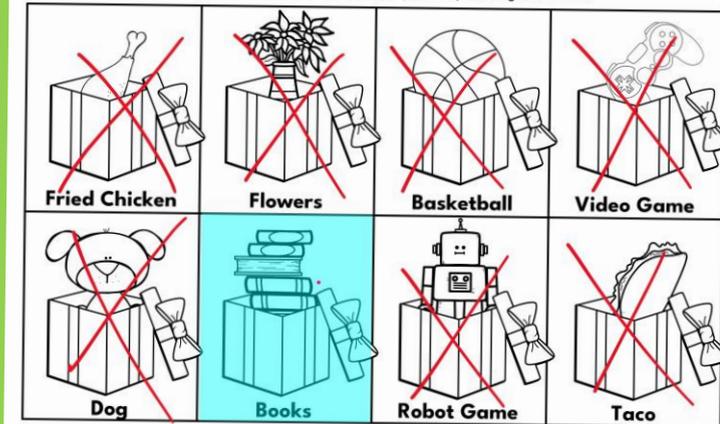
A: 5 letters  
E: 6 letters  
O: 9 letters  
I: 4 letters  
U: 8 letters

Which letter did you see most often?

Use that answer to cross off wrong items.

## What's in the Box?

Figure out what's in the mystery box by solving each clue.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Each time students solve a clue, it will reveal what to cross out.

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

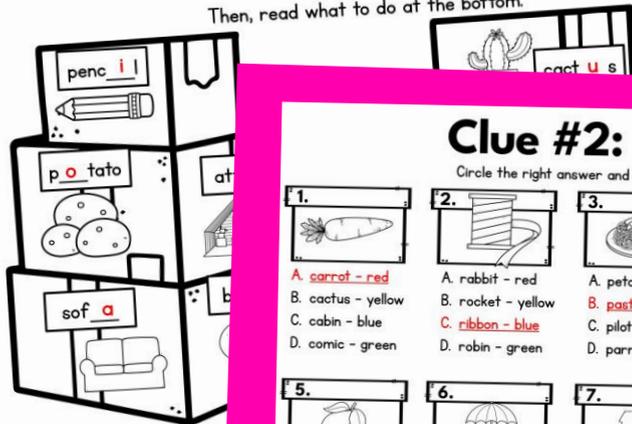
# SKILL PRACTICE

## Schwa Words Review:

- Identify the Vowel Sound
- Onset & Rime
- Blending Sounds into Words
- Open & Closed Syllable Words
- Error Analysis
- Differentiating Between Schwa A and Schwa E

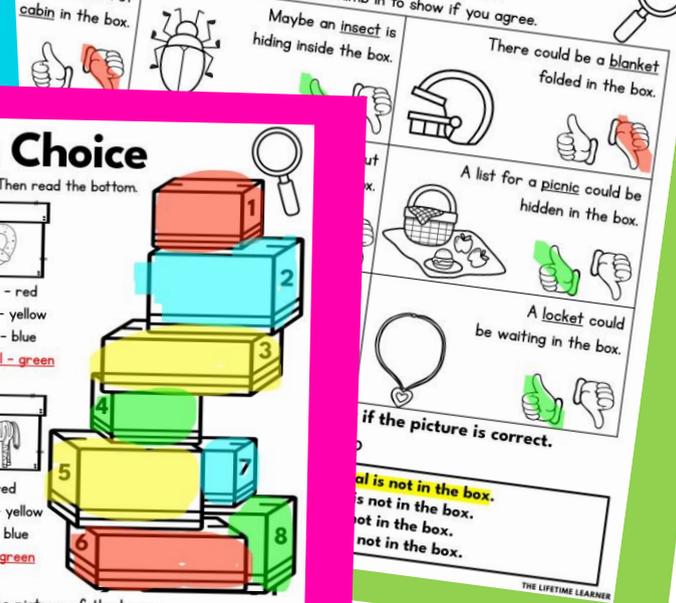
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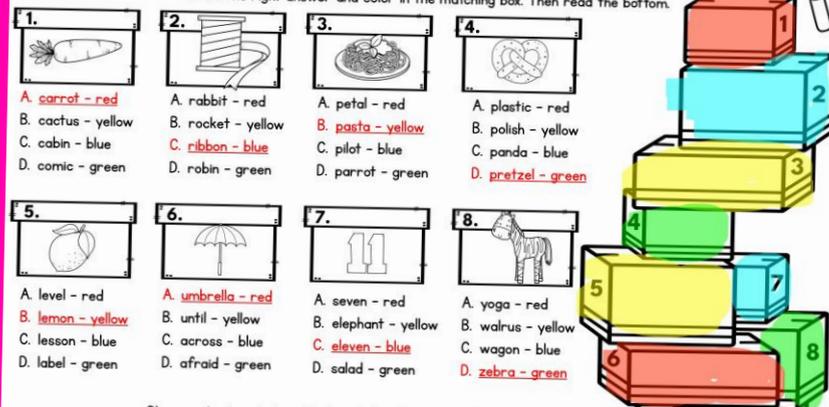
### Clue #3: Right or Wrong

Does the picture match the sentence? Color the thumb in to show if you agree.

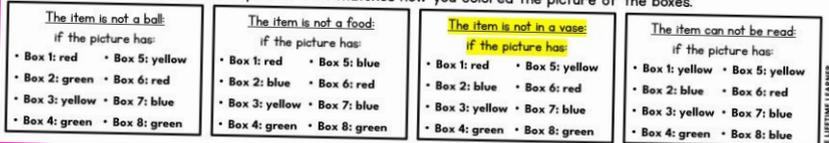


### Clue #2: Multiple Choice

Circle the right answer and color in the matching box. Then read the bottom.



Choose the key below that matches how you colored the picture of the boxes.



**All clues focus on reviewing schwa words!**

# MULTIPLE VERSIONS



## Print & Digital Forms

**Clue #1: Missing Letters**  
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**Clue #2: Multiple Choice**  
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**Clue #3: Right or Wrong**  
Does the picture match the sentence? Color the thumb in to show if you agree.

**3 Clue Version**

How many pictures were correct?

- 1 Correct = A meat is not in the box.
- 2 Correct = A sport is not in the box.
- 3 Correct = A food is not in the box.
- 4 Correct = A pet that barks is in not in the box.
- 5 Correct = An animal is not in the box.
- 6 Correct = A game is not in the box.
- 7 Correct = A toy is not in the box.
- 8 Correct = A book is not in the box.

**Clue #1: Missing Letters**  
First, fill in the missing vowel sound for each word.  
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**Clue #2: Multiple Choice**  
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**Clue #4: Word Hunt**

**Clue #5: Descrambler**  
Write the letters on the correct spot at the bottom. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

**5 Clue Version**

The item in the box is something:

Y O U C A N R E A D

panda puppet racket yoga pizza magnet basket tuba planet banana

**Clue #2: Multiple Choice**  
Circle the right answer and color in the matching box. Then read the bottom.

1. A. carrot - red  
B. cactus - yellow  
C. cabin - blue  
D. comic - green

2. A. rabbit - red  
B. rocket - yellow  
C. ribbon - blue  
D. robin - green

3. A. petal - red  
B. pasta - yellow  
C. pilot - blue  
D. parrot - green

4. A. plastic - red  
B. polish - yellow  
C. panda - blue  
D. pretzel - green

5. A. level - red  
B. lemon - yellow  
C. lesson - blue  
D. label - green

6. A. umbrella - red  
B. until - yellow  
C. across - blue  
D. afraid - green

7. A. seven - red  
B. elephant - yellow  
C. eleven - blue  
D. salad - green

8. A. yoga - red  
B. walrus - yellow  
C. wagon - blue  
D. zebra - green

Choose the key below that matches how you colored the picture of the boxes.

The item is not a ball if the picture has: • Box 1: red • Box 5: yellow • Box 2: green • Box 6: red • Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue • Box 4: green • Box 8: green	The item is not a food if the picture has: • Box 1: red • Box 5: blue • Box 2: blue • Box 6: red • Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue • Box 4: green • Box 8: green	The item is not in a vase if the picture has: • Box 1: red • Box 5: yellow • Box 2: blue • Box 6: red • Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue • Box 4: green • Box 8: green	The item can not be read if the picture has: • Box 1: yellow • Box 5: yellow • Box 2: blue • Box 6: red • Box 3: yellow • Box 7: blue • Box 4: green • Box 8: blue
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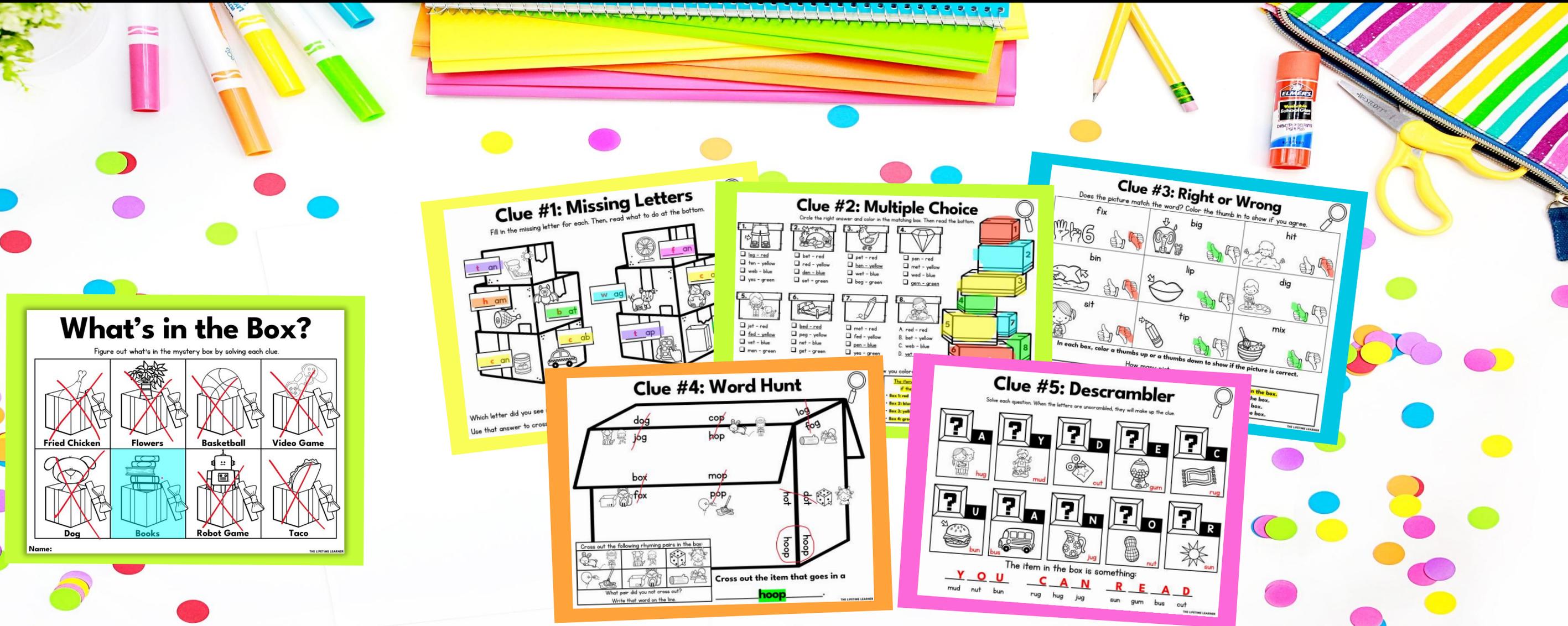
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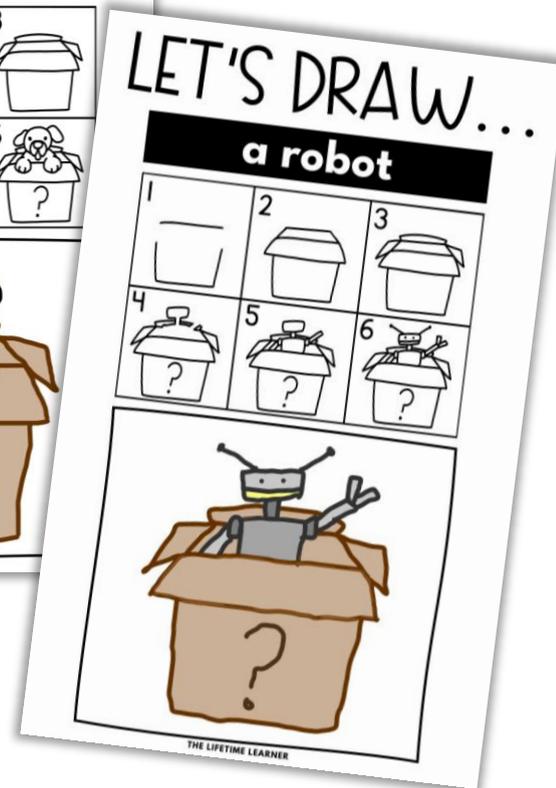
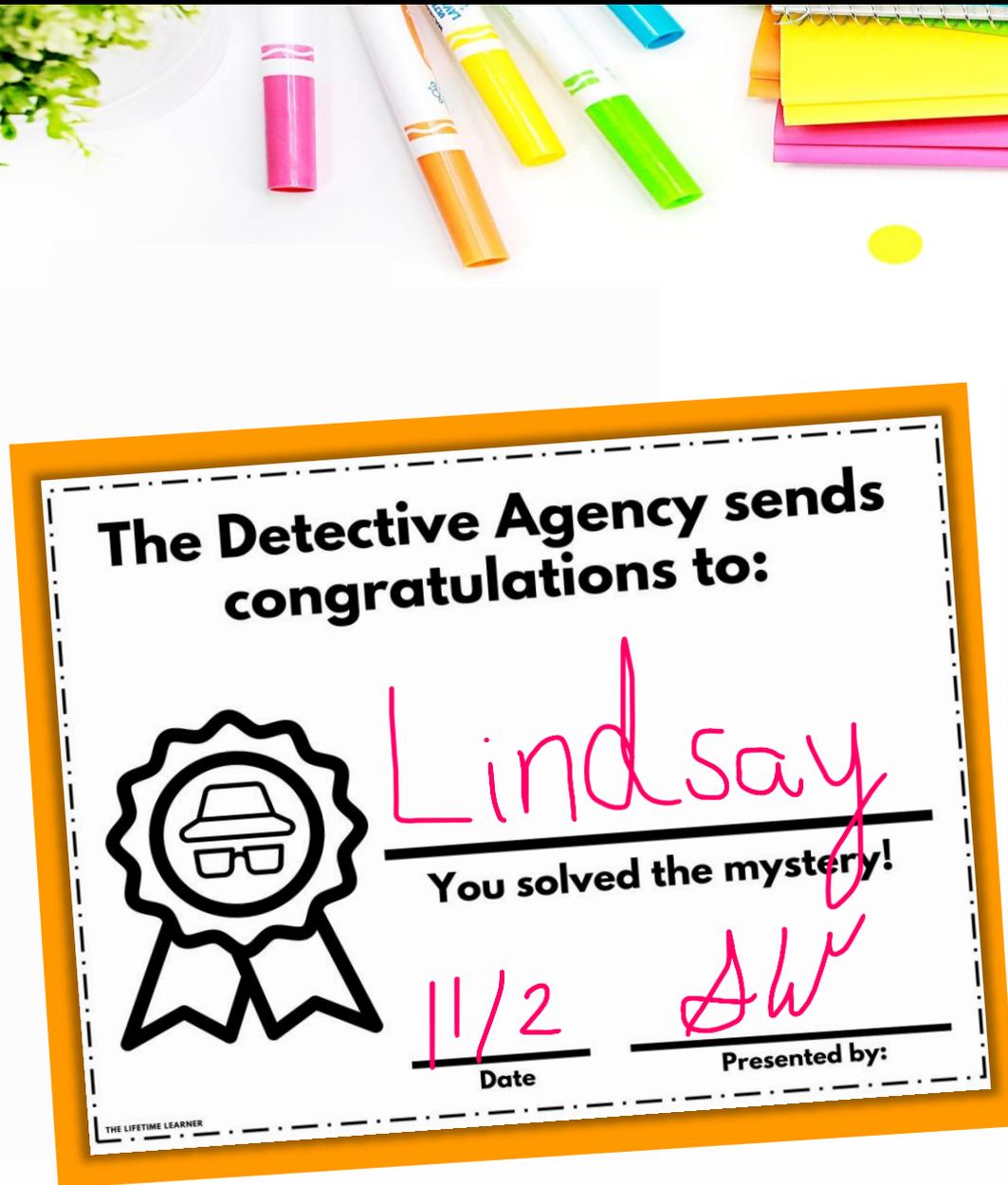
## Short & Long Options

# CVC OPTION AVAILABLE



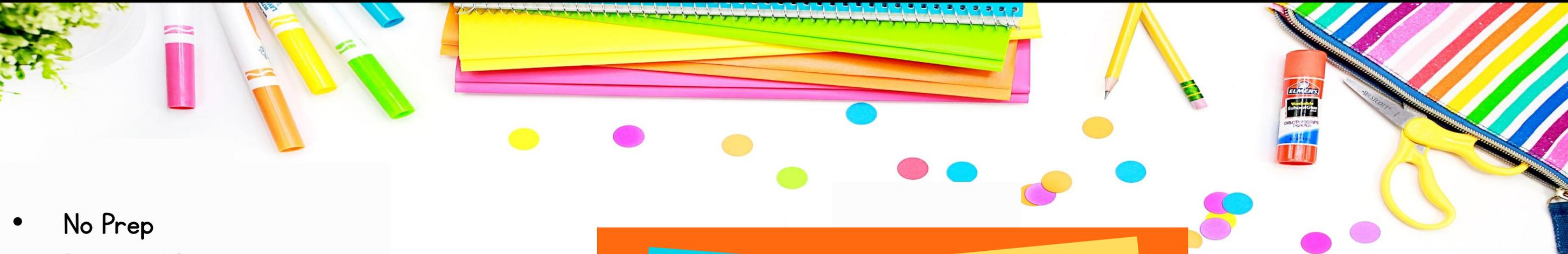
Differentiate within your small groups. Same clues. Same mystery. Different focus!  
There is a version of the mystery included that reviews CVC Words (Short A, E, I, O, U).

# FAST FINISHER ACTIVITY



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 Mystery OR CVC Words Mystery.
- You can even mix/match clues to combine the 2 skills together.

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**

dragon wagon kitten mitten awake bake rocket pocket moon balloon cricket ticket hoop

Cross out the following rhyming pairs in the box:


What pair did you not cross out?  
Write that word on the line.

Cross out the item that goes in a **hoop**.

\_\_\_\_\_

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## Ideas for Use:

- Use as a mini lesson during whole group time
- During small groups
- In partners
- In table groups
- For fast finishers

# 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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The item in the box is something:  
**Y O U C A N R E A D**  
panda puppet racket yoga pizza magnet basket tuba planet banana

The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:

**Lindsay**  
You solved the mystery!

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

LET'S DRAW...  
**a puppy**

LET'S DRAW...  
**a robot**

**What's in the Box?**  
Figure out what's in the mystery box by solving each clue.

<del>Fried Chicken</del>	<del>Flowers</del>	<del>Basketball</del>	<del>Video Game</del>
<del>Dog</del>	<b>Books</b>	<del>Robot Game</del>	<del>Taco</del>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**solve the mystery**

The Case of the Mysterious Package

# 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: Missing Letters

First, fill in the missing vowel sound for each word.  
Then, read what to do at the bottom.

Which letter did you see most often?  
Use that answer to cross off wrong items.

The item in the box does NOT have:

- A: 5 letters
- E: 6 letters
- O: 9 letters
- I: 4 letters**
- U: 8 letters

### Clue #1: Color the Boxes

Answer each question. Then color each mystery box the correct color.

Alex moved the couch 15 inches to the left. Then he moved it another 20 inches to the left. How many inches did he move the couch in all? $15+20 = 35$	Sarah's rectangular pool is 50 feet long and 25 feet wide. How much longer is it than wide in feet? $50-25 = 25$	Emma's living room window is 28 inches wide and her bedroom window is 36 inches wide. How wide are the windows put together? $28+36 = 64$	Sarah's bookcase is 24 inches wide and her sister's bookcase is the same width as hers. What is the width of their bookcases combined? $24+24 = 48$
A. 35 in. color box red B. 35 in. color box blue C. 35 in. color box green D. 35 in. color box yellow	A. 25 ft. color box red B. 75 ft. color box blue C. 40 ft. color box green D. 55 ft. color box yellow	A. 8 in. color box red B. 58 in. color box blue C. 64 in. color box green D. 16 in. color box yellow	A. 24 in. color box red B. 48 in. color box blue C. 12 in. color box green D. 36 in. color box yellow

What color boxes do you see? Find the key that matches for your next hint!

• 2 red boxes • 1 blue box • 0 green boxes • 1 yellow box	• 2 red boxes • 1 blue box • 1 green box • 0 yellow boxes	• 2 red boxes • 0 blue boxes • 1 green box • 1 yellow box	• 2 red boxes • 2 blue boxes • 0 green boxes • 0 yellow boxes
Cross out objects that are plants.	Cross out objects that are round.	Cross out anything you need to cook.	Cross out anything that is alive.

# 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!

