

WHAT IS THIS?



Clue #1: Read It Like a Book
Color the boxes that are true. Cross out the boxes that are not true.
Read the words at the top of each box you colored from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

Clue #2: Holiday Lights
Answer each question. Then color each light in the correct color.

Clue #3: Right or Wrong?
Color each thumb in to show if you agree with each word.

Clue #4: Word Hunt

Clue #5: Descrambler
Look at the picture. Match it to a word below. Write the letter next to each chimney on each line. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

Santa was not near any **S N O W M E N** today.
snuggle stable handle twinkle tangle jingle waddle

solve the mystery

The Case of the Missing Santa

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

The North Pole

As you solve each clue, cross out the places that Santa is not located at. The place left at the end will reveal Santa's location!

REINDEER STABLES
NORTH POLE CAFE
SANTA'S HOUSE
GINGERBREAD HOUSE
SLEIGH GARAGE
POLAR BEAR ORPHANAGE
ELF VILLAGE
TOY FACTORY

Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Students complete a series of clues to figure out where Santa is!

HOW TO PLAY



What Happened?

Oh no! SANTA IS MISSING!! It's your job to figure out where he is. Solve the clues to figure out where Santa is and solve the mystery!

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



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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Read the words at the top of each box you colored from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

 Santa  mailbox	 will  bedtime	 is  giftwrap	 can  peppermint
 not  snowman	 in  fireplace	 cup  toothbrush	 his  pancake
 elf  candlestick	 pet  nutcracker	 bed  footprints	 toy  snowball

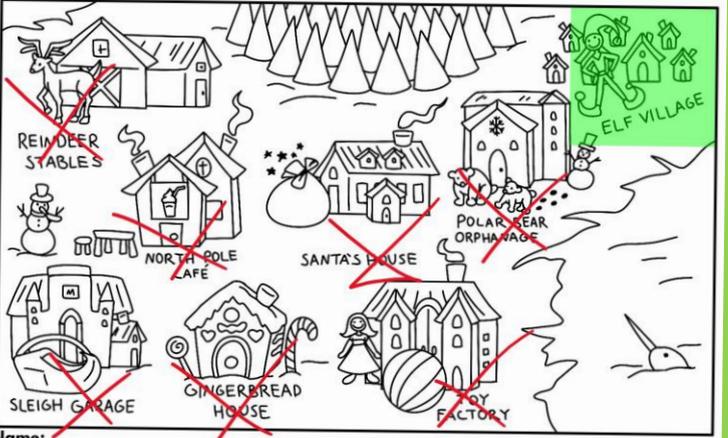
Write the phrase on the line. Cross the wrong place off your list.

Santa is not in his bed

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

The North Pole

As you solve each clue, cross out the places that Santa is not located at. The place left at the end will reveal Santa's location!



Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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

When all clues are completed, "The Mystery of the Missing Santa" will be solved!

SKILL PRACTICE

Christmas Phonics Review:

- Compound Words
- R-Controlled Vowels (Multi-Syllable)
- Silent Letters (KN, WR, MB, & GN)
- Vowel Teams Multi-Syllable
- Open & Closed Consonant -LE

Clue #1: Read It Like a Book

Color the boxes that are true. Cross out the boxes that are not true.
Read the words at the top of each box you colored from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

 Santa			
			
 not			
 elf			
			

Write the phrase...

Clue #3: Right or Wrong?

Color each thumb in to show if you agree with each word.

 in the front	 I hurt my <u>knee</u> playing in the snow.	 We <u>climb</u> a ladder to hang up lights.
 Santa left no <u>crumbs</u> behind.	 I will <u>write</u> a letter to Santa.	 animals today.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Clue #2: Holiday Lights

Answer each question. Then color each light in the correct color.

We cut down a tree in the <u>forest</u> .	The snow falls in <u>winter</u> .	We open gifts on the <u>carpet</u> .	For dinner, we have <u>turkey</u> .	The gift I gave my pal cost a <u>dollar</u> .	On Christmas, it is a <u>starry</u> night.
<input type="checkbox"/> farmer - red <input type="checkbox"/> father - green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> forest - yellow <input type="checkbox"/> farther - brown	<input type="checkbox"/> word - red <input type="checkbox"/> worm - green <input type="checkbox"/> worker - yellow <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> winter - brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> carpet - red <input type="checkbox"/> corner - green <input type="checkbox"/> circus - yellow <input type="checkbox"/> carrot - brown	<input type="checkbox"/> timber - red <input type="checkbox"/> target - green <input type="checkbox"/> turtle - yellow <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> turkey - brown	<input type="checkbox"/> dinner - red <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> dollar - green <input type="checkbox"/> doctor - yellow <input type="checkbox"/> darker - brown	<input type="checkbox"/> surf - red <input type="checkbox"/> sorry - green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> starry - yellow <input type="checkbox"/> scarf - brown
					
What color lights do you see? Find the key that matches for your next hint!	What color lights do you see? Find the key that matches for your next hint!	What color lights do you see? Find the key that matches for your next hint!	What color lights do you see? Find the key that matches for your next hint!	What color lights do you see? Find the key that matches for your next hint!	What color lights do you see? Find the key that matches for your next hint!
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 red lights• 2 brown lights• 1 green light• 1 yellow light Santa is not near any polar bears at this time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 red light• 1 brown light• 2 green lights• 2 yellow lights Santa is not in his garage at this time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 red light• 2 brown lights• 1 green light• 2 yellow lights Santa is not near any candy at this time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 red lights• 1 brown light• 2 green lights• 1 yellow light Santa is not near any toys at this time.		

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

All clues focus on reviewing 2nd grade phonics skills!

MULTIPLE VERSIONS



Print & Digital Forms

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Color the boxes that are true. Cross out the boxes that are not true.
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Clue #2: Holiday Lights
Answer each question. Then color each light in the correct color.

Clue #3: Right or Wrong?
Color each thumb in to show if you agree with each word.

We put a gnome in the front yard. I hurt my knee playing in the snow. We climb a ladder to hang up lights.

We wrap up a present behind. We made a side see. Santa.

How many boxes were correct?
More green answers = Santa did not go near any animals today.
More red answers = Santa did not plan to drive or fly today.

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Clue #4: Word Hunt
Look at the picture. Match it to a word below. Write the letter next to each chimney on each line. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

Clue #5: Descrambler
Look at the picture. Match it to a word below. Write the letter next to each chimney on each line. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

Santa was not near any **S N O W M E N** today.
snuggle stable handle twinkle tangle jingle waddle

Clue #2: Holiday Lights
Answer each question. Then color each light in the correct color.

We cut down a tree in the forest. The snow falls in winter. We open gifts on the carpet. For dinner, we have turkey. The gift I gave my pal cost a dollar. On Christmas, it is a starry night.

<input type="checkbox"/> farmer - red	<input type="checkbox"/> word - red	<input type="checkbox"/> sunset - red	<input type="checkbox"/> timber - red	<input type="checkbox"/> dinner - red	<input type="checkbox"/> surf - red
<input type="checkbox"/> father - green	<input type="checkbox"/> worm - green	<input type="checkbox"/> corner - green	<input type="checkbox"/> target - green	<input type="checkbox"/> dollar - green	<input type="checkbox"/> sorry - green
<input type="checkbox"/> forest - yellow	<input type="checkbox"/> worker - yellow	<input type="checkbox"/> circus - yellow	<input type="checkbox"/> turtle - yellow	<input type="checkbox"/> doctor - yellow	<input type="checkbox"/> starry - yellow
<input type="checkbox"/> farther - brown	<input type="checkbox"/> winter - brown	<input type="checkbox"/> carrot - brown	<input type="checkbox"/> turkey - brown	<input type="checkbox"/> darker - brown	<input type="checkbox"/> scarf - brown

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

• 2 red lights • 2 brown lights • 1 green light • 1 yellow light	• 1 red light • 1 brown light • 2 green lights • 2 yellow lights	• 1 red light • 2 brown lights • 1 green light • 2 yellow lights	• 2 red lights • 1 brown light • 2 green lights • 1 yellow light
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Santa is not near any polar bears at this time. Santa is not in his garage at this time. Santa is not near any candy at this time. Santa is not near any toys at this time.

Clue #2: Holiday Lights
Answer each question. Then color each light in the correct color.

We cut down a tree in the forest. The snow falls in winter. We open gifts on the carpet. For dinner, we have turkey. The gift I gave my pal cost a dollar. On Christmas, it is a starry night.

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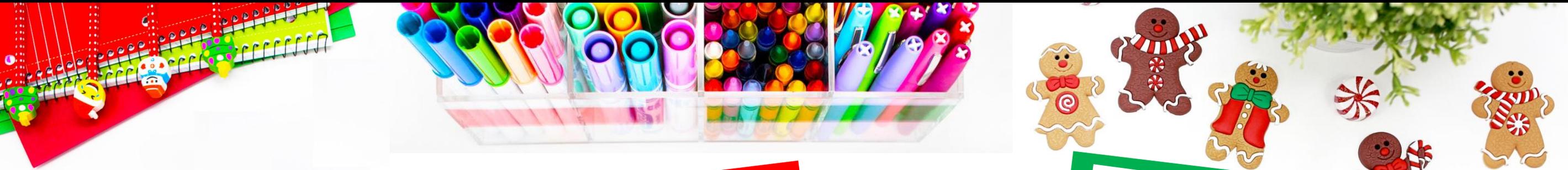
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Santa is not near any polar bears at this time. Santa is not in his garage at this time. Santa is not near any candy at this time. Santa is not near any toys at this time.

Short & Long Options

CVC OPTION AVAILABLE



The North Pole

As you solve each clue, cross out the places that Santa is not located at. The place left at the end will reveal Santa's location!

Name: _____

Clue #1: Read It Like a Book

Color the boxes that are true. Cross out the boxes that are not true.
Read the words at the top of each box you colored from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

Santa	will	is	map
bug	pit	cup	elf
not	in	lit	bed
fed	bus	pet	elf
elf	map		

Clue #2: Holiday Lights

Answer each question. Then color each light in the correct color.

ca	do	ne	cu	da	di
A. t - red B. n - green C. k - yellow D. p - brown	A. g - red B. b - green C. k - yellow D. l - brown	A. t - red B. g - green C. k - yellow D. l - brown	A. t - red B. b - green C. n - yellow D. m - brown	A. g - red B. d - green C. n - yellow D. m - brown	A. g - red B. z - green C. e - yellow D. m - brown

What color light is left? Write it on the line.

Clue #3: Right or Wrong?

Color each thumb in to show if you agree with each word.

rip	vet	fin
bed	cap	top
den	cat	van

Clue #4: Word Hunt

Cross out the following words:

nut	pin	bag	toy	pan	gum	six
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Santa is not near any _____

What word is left? Write it on the line.

Clue #5: Descrambler

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

nut	fan	cab
M	O	E

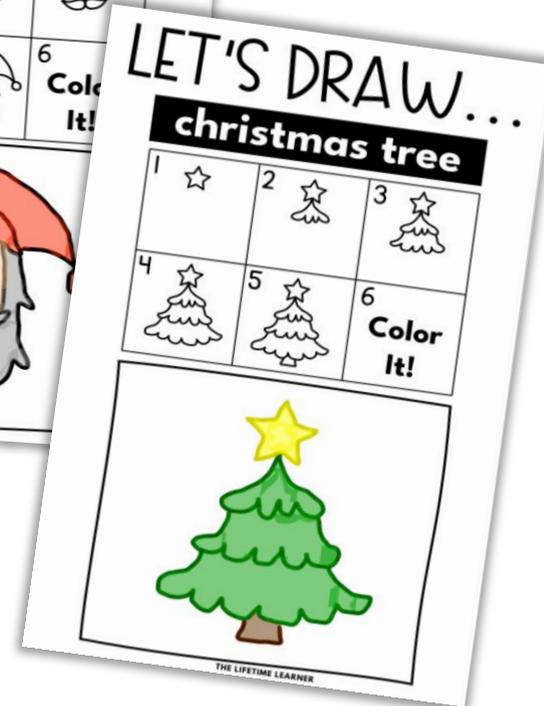
Santa was not near any S N O W M E N today.

cab ran gum nut fan hip yum

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

train
puppy
snow
cocoa
lights
tree
tissue
pie
sleigh
mail

Cross out the following words:

What word is left? Write it on the line.

Santa is not near any **toys**

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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Santa was not near any **S N O W M E N** today.

snuggle stable handle twinkle tangle jingle waddle

The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:

Lindsay

You solved the mystery!

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

LET'S DRAW...
a Santa Claus

1 2 3
4 5 6 Color it!

LET'S DRAW...
christmas tree

1 2 3
4 5 6 Color it!

The North Pole

As you solve each clue, cross out the places that Santa is not located at. The place left at the end will reveal Santa's location.

REINDEER STABLES
NORTH POLE
SANTA'S HOUSE
SLEIGH GARAGE
GINGERBREAD HOUSE
POLAR BEAR ORPHANAGE
ELF VILLAGE
FACTORY

solve the mystery

The Case of the Missing Santa

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

Clue #1: Read It Like a Book

Color the boxes that are true. Cross out the boxes that are not true.
Read the words at the top of each box you colored from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

Santa	will	is	can
bedtime	giftwrap	peppermint	
fireplace	toothbrush	pancake	
elf	pet	bed	toy
candlestick	nutcracker	footprints	snowball

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

Santa is not in his bed

Example of Clue 1

Math

Clue #1: Fill in the Blank

408 full	428 and	388 reindeer	568 someone	438 by	428 it
448 garage	528 village	468 you	418 the	598 sleigh	378 bear
500 toy	488 empty	518 Santa	398 elf	458 stopped	478 was

Answer: Word: 468 you 428-10 418 the 398+100 498 it

358+100 458 stopped 548-100 448 garage 468+10 478 was

448-10 438 by 328+100 428 and 498-10 488 empty

Solve each problem. Write the answer. Then, write the word that goes with it. When you are done, read the words in order from top to bottom ↓ in each row to figure out the clue.

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!**

