

WHAT IS THIS?

The image features a collection of school supplies: a stack of colorful spiral notebooks, a tray of multi-colored markers, and a bundle of colored pencils. Overlaid on these are several educational worksheets and a central sign. The worksheets include:

- Clue #1: Find It!** - Circle the boxes that have a picture that matches the sentence. Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.
- Clue #2: Color the Instruments** - Circle the right answer and color in the picture. Then...
- Clue #3: Error Analysis** - Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer. Read the list from the kid with the most correct answers.
- Clue #4: Word Hunt** - Write OI, OY, OU, or OW in each box. Then, read the bottom.
- Clue #5: Descrambler** - Look at the picture. Match it to a word below. Write the letter next to each star on each line. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

The central sign reads: **solve the mystery** with an illustration of a blue electric guitar. Below the sign is the text: **The Case of the Missing Instrument** and **THE LIFETIME LEARNER**.

On the right, another worksheet titled **What Went Missing?** asks students to figure out what musical instrument went missing by solving each clue. It features a grid of musical instruments with X marks over them:

Keyboard	Trumpet	Amp	Drum Set
Acoustic Guitar	Electric Guitar	Speakers	Microphone

Name: _____

Students complete a series of clues to figure out what instrument is missing!

HOW TO PLAY



What Happened?

Last night, you went to a rock concert. But as the band was playing, one of their instruments suddenly went missing! Now you have to figure out which instrument disappeared based on the clues.

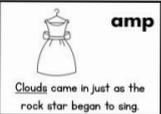
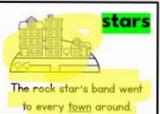
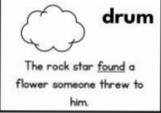
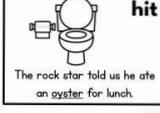
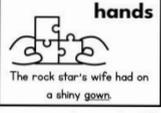
1. Take a list of instruments and then start solving each clue.
2. Each time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering which instrument went missing.
3. Cross out wrong instruments each time you find out new information. Good luck!



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Clue #1: Find It!

Circle the boxes that have a picture that matches the sentence. Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

 The sound was so loud I covered my ears. no	 The rock star took a break to use the toilet. yes	 Clouds came in just as the rock star began to sing. amp	 The rock star's band went to every town around. stars
 My dog starts to howl when I put music on. play	 The rock star flipped a coin to decide which song to play. on	 The rock star found a flower someone threw to him. drum	 The rock star had noodles with soy sauce before his show for dinner. this
 The rock star told us he ate an oyster for lunch. hit	 The rock star came to my house to pick me up! instrument	 The rock star's wife had on a shiny gown. hands	 Many kids wanted to join the rock star's band. slam

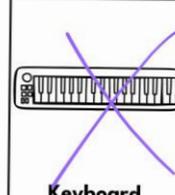
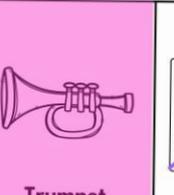
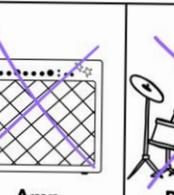
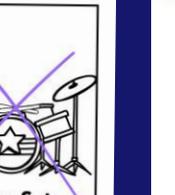
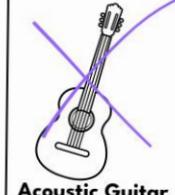
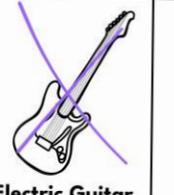
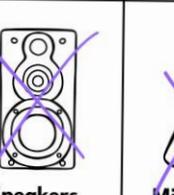
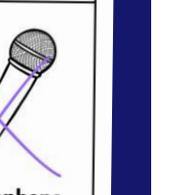
Write the phrase on the line. Cross the wrong instruments off your list.

no stars on this instrument

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

What Went Missing?

Figure out what musical instrument went missing by solving each clue.

 Keyboard	 Trumpet	 Amp	 Drum Set
 Acoustic Guitar	 Electric Guitar	 Speakers	 Microphone

Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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

SKILL PRACTICE

Diphthongs Review:

- 1 and 2 Syllable Words
- OI, OY, OU, and OW Words
- Error Analysis
- Reading Sentences
- Match Picture to Word
- Missing Middle Sound (Diphthong)

Clue #1: Find It!

Circle the boxes that have a picture that matches the sentence.
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

no **yes** **amp** **stars**

The sound was so loud I covered my ears.

The rock star to use

My dog starts to howl when I put music on.

The rock star to decide

The rock star told us he ate an oyster for lunch.

The rock star

Write the phrase

no stars

Clue #2: Color the Instruments

Circle the right answer and color in the picture. Then read the bottom.

town - color it red
 tower - color it yellow
 towel - color it green
 frown - color it blue

bounce - color it red
 mouse - color it yellow
 house - color it green
 sound - color it blue

oil - color it red
 soil - color it yellow
 coil - color it green
 boil - color it blue

destroy - color it red
 joyful - color it yellow
 annoy - color it green
 voyage - color it blue

spoil - color it red
 poison - color it yellow
 foil - color it green
 point - color it blue

cowboy - color it red
 toy - color it yellow
 soy - color it blue

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

Cross out 2-word instruments if the picture has: • 1 yellow • 2 red • 2 blue • 1 green	Cross out 1-word instruments if the picture has: • 2 yellow • 1 red • 2 blue • 1 green	Cross out black and white keys if the picture has: • 2 yellow • 2 red • 1 blue • 1 green	Cross out string instruments if the picture has: • 2 yellow • 1 red • 1 blue • 2 green
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Clue #3: Error Analysis

Are the pictures match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer.
Use the hint from the kid with the most correct answers.

Cross out the instruments you turn on.

The loud noise annoys me.

He made a scowl when he forgot the song.

The drums made a lot of noise.

All clues focus on reviewing diphthongs!

MULTIPLE VERSIONS



Print & Digital Forms

Clue #1: Find It!
Circle the boxes that have a picture that matches the sentence.
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

Clue #2: Color the Instruments
Circle the right answer and color in.

Clue #3: Error Analysis
Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer.
Read the hint from the kid with the most correct answers.

3 Clue Version

Cross out the instrument that doesn't match the hint.

The rock star wore a push on his waist. He made a when he forgot the song.

She used her voice to sing on stage. The rock star opened his mouth wide to sing. The drums made a lot of noise.

Clue #1: Find It!
Circle the boxes that have a picture that matches the sentence.
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

Clue #2: Color the Instruments
Circle the right answer and color in.

Clue #3: Error Analysis
Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer.

Clue #4: Word Hunt
Write OI, oy, OU, or OW in each box. Then, read the bottom.

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

5 Clue Version

You do not have to

P L U G I T I N
tower destroy ground royal point frown boil shout

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

N L U I

P I T

You do not have to

P L U G I T I
tower destroy ground royal point frown boil

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

N L U I

P I T G

You do not have to

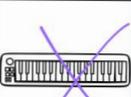
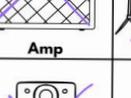
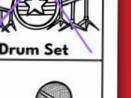
P L U G I T I N
tower destroy ground royal point frown boil shout

Short & Long Options

CVC OPTION AVAILABLE

What Went Missing?

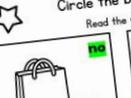
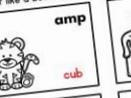
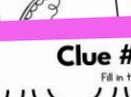
Figure out what musical instrument went missing by solving each clue.

 Keyboard	 Trumpet	 Amp	 Drum Set
 Acoustic Guitar	 Electric Guitar	 Speakers	 Microphone

Name: _____

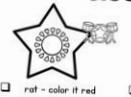
Clue #1: Find It!

Circle the boxes that have a "a" sound. Cross out the rest.
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

 bag	 top	 cub	 amp
 play	 can	 drum	 mop
 hit	 instrument	 hands	 fish

Clue #2: Color the Instruments

Circle the right answer and color in the picture. Then read the bottom.

 rat - color it red	 tip - color it yellow	 met - color it red
 sun - color it green	 zit - color it green	 wet - color it yellow
 set - color it blue	 pin - color it blue	 wet - color it blue

men - color it red
mad - color it yellow
mad - color it green
mat - color it blue

pin - color it red
pat - color it yellow
pat - color it green

big - color it red
jam - color it yellow
pig - color it yellow
jet - color it blue

Clue #3: Error Analysis

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

Cross out the instruments you hold in your hand.

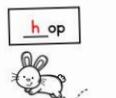
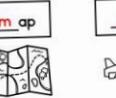
Cross out the instruments with strings.

Cross out the instruments you turn on.

 bit	 mop	 bag
 hid	 pat	 web

Clue #4: Word Hunt

Fill in the first letter of each word.

 b_ug	 _s_ip	 _f_in	 _r_ub
 _h_op	 _m_et	 _m_ap	 _j_et

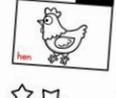
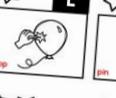
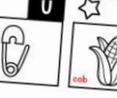
What letter did you write the most? Circle it. Write word on line.

- J = drum
- M = floor
- H = box
- B = hand

It does not sit on the floor.

Clue #5: Descrambler

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

 hen	 pop	 pin	 rob
 map	 bun	 pen	 nut

You do not have to

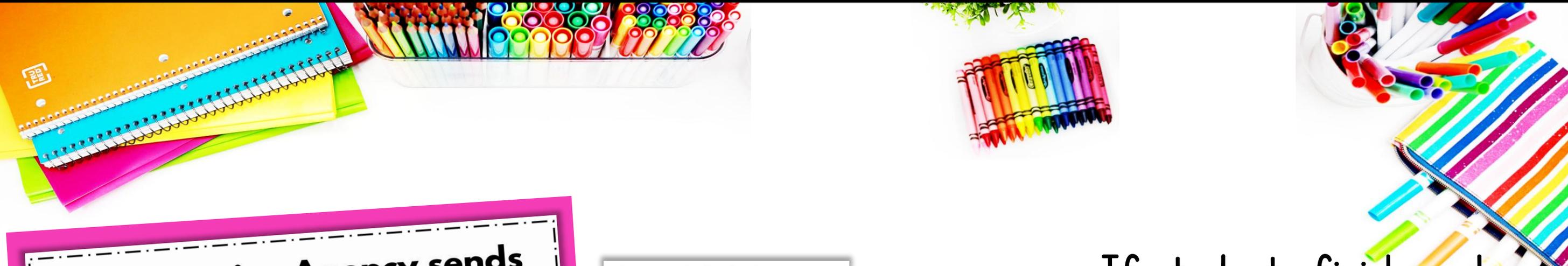
P L U G I T I N

map pop pin nut bun pen oob hen

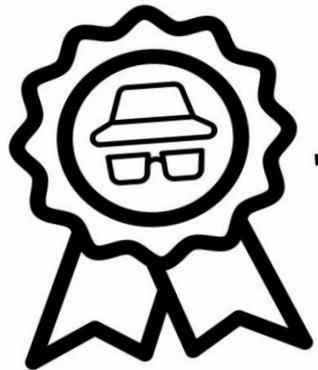
Differentiate within your small groups. Same clues. Same mystery. Different focus!

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

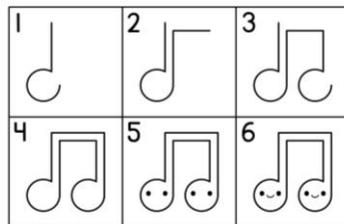
Date

AW

Presented by:

LET'S DRAW...

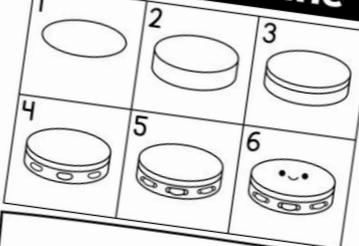
a note



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

LET'S DRAW...

a tambourine



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

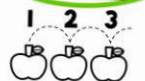
If students finish early, give them a certificate of completion and a directed drawing to complete while others continue working.

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

Clue #4: Word Hunt
Write oi, oy, ou, or ow in each box. Then, read the bottom.

cl_ow_n 	†_oy_s 	m_ou_se 	gr_ow_l 
c_ou_ch 	c_ou_nt 	_ou_ch 	_oi_nk 

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

• oi = drum	• oy = box
• ou = floor	• ow = hand

It does not sit on the **FLOOR**

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!

Clue #1: Find It!
Circle the boxes that have a picture that matches the sentence.
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

Clue #2: Color the Instruments
Circle the right answer and color in the picture. Then read the bottom.

Clue #3: Error Analysis
Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer.
Read the hint from the kid with the most correct answers.

Clue #4: Word Hunt
Write oi, oy, ou, or ow in each box. Then, read the bottom.

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

You do not have to

P L U G I T I N
tower destroy ground royal point frown ball shout

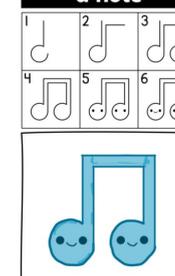
The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:

Lindsay

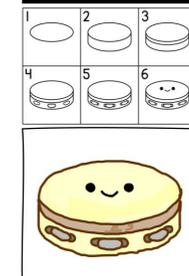
You solved the mystery!

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

LET'S DRAW...
a note



LET'S DRAW...
a tambourine



What Went Missing?
Figure out what musical instrument went missing by solving each clue.

Keyboard	Trumpet	Amp	Drum Set
Acoustic Guitar	Electric Guitar	Speakers	Microphone

Name: _____

solve the mystery



The Case of the Missing Instrument

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: Find It!
Circle the boxes that have a picture that matches the sentence.
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

no The rock star took a break to use the toilet.	yes The rock star took a break to use the toilet.	amp Clouds came in just as the rock star began to sing.	stars The rock star's band went to every town around.
on The rock star flipped a coin to decide which song to play.	drum The rock star found a flower someone threw to him.	this The rock star had noodles with soy sauce before his show for dinner.	slam Many kids wanted to join the rock star's band.
hit The rock star told us he ate an oyster for lunch.	instrument The rock star came to my house to pick me up!	hands The rock star's wife had on a shiny gown.	slam Many kids wanted to join the rock star's band.

Write the phrase on the line. Cross the wrong instruments off your list.
no stars on this instrument

Example of Clue 1

Math

Clue #1: Picture Decoder
Write the answer on each line. Then, draw a line to each match.
Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

Answers: Circle cut in halves, Rectangle cut in thirds, Square cut in halves, Rectangle cut in fourths, Circle cut in fourths, Square cut in thirds

ers: G U I T A R

The missing instrument is not a...

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 = 😊	

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!**

