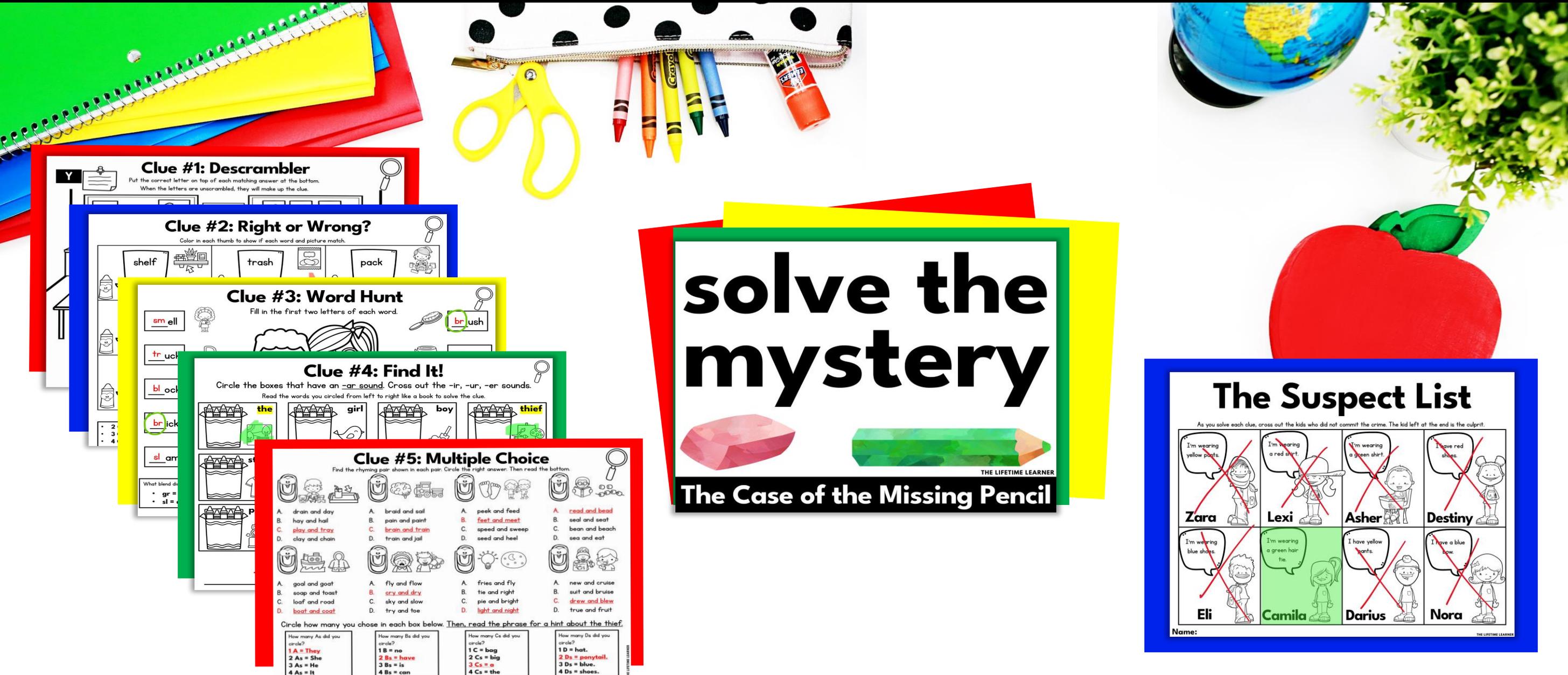
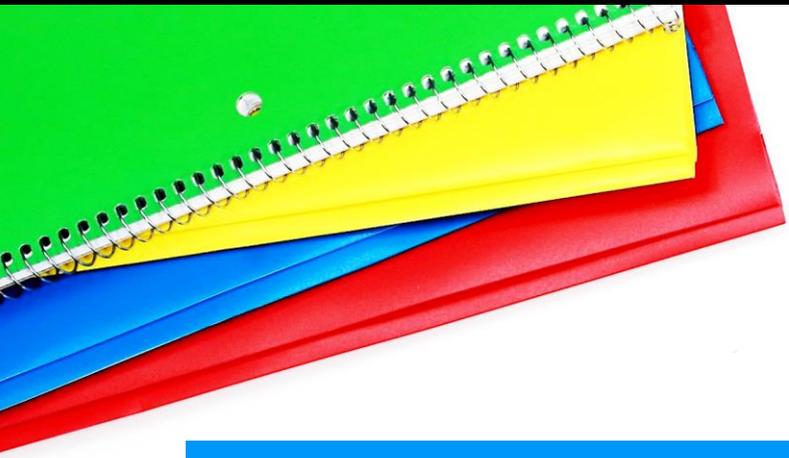


WHAT IS THIS?



Students complete a series of clues to figure out who took the missing pencil!

HOW TO PLAY



What Happened?

Oh no! You brought your new pencil to school today but it went missing while you were at recess. It's your job to find out who took the missing pencil.

1. Take a suspect list and then start solving each clue.
2. Each time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering who the culprit (thief) is!
3. Cross out wrong suspects each time you find out new information. Good luck!



Clue #1: Descrambler

Put the correct letter on top of each matching answer at the bottom.
When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

Place the correct letter on top of each matching answer.

The thief is not wearing...
Y E L L O W

note case game dice slide cube

The Suspect List

As you solve each clue, cross out the kids who did not commit the crime. The kid left at the end is the culprit.

 I'm wearing yellow pants. Zara	 I'm wearing a red shirt. Lexi	 I'm wearing a green shirt. Asher	 I have red shoes. Destiny
 I'm wearing blue shoes. Eli	 I'm wearing a green hair tie. Camila	 I have yellow pants. Darius	 I have a blue hair tie. Nora

Name: _____

Each time students solve a clue, it will reveal which suspects to cross off.

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

SKILL PRACTICE

- CVCe words
- Digraphs Review
- Beginning Blends
- R-Controlled Vowels
- Rhyming Vowel Teams (Long Vowel Words)
- All 1 Syllable Words

Clue #1: Descrambler
Put the correct letter on top of each matching answer at the bottom.
When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

Clue #2: Right or Wrong?
Color in each thumb to show if each word and picture match.

Clue #3: Word Hunt
Fill in the first two letters of each word.

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

- gr = book
- br = bow
- sl = desk
- sm = bag

The thief does not have a **bow**.

All clues focus on reviewing 1st grade phonics skills!

MULTIPLE VERSIONS



Print & Digital Forms

Clue #1: Descrambler
Put the correct letter on top of each matching answer at the bottom. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

Clue #2: Right or Wrong?
Color in each thumb to show if each word and picture match.

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Fill in the first two letters of each word.

3 Clue Version

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

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The thief does not have a **bow**.

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Fill in the first two letters of each word.

Clue #4: Find It!
Circle the boxes that have an -ar sound. Cross out the -ir, -ur, -er sounds. Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

Clue #5: Multiple Choice
Find the rhyming pair shown in each pair. Circle the right answer. Then read the bottom.

Circle how many you chose in each box below. Then, read the phrase for a hint about the thief.

How many As did you circle? 1 A = They 2 As = He 3 As = He 4 As = It	How many Bs did you circle? 1 B = no 2 Bs = have 3 Bs = is 4 Bs = can	How many Cs did you circle? 1 C = bag 2 Cs = big 3 Cs = a 4 Cs = the	How many Ds did you circle? 1 D = hat. 2 Ds = ponytail. 3 Ds = blue. 4 Ds = shoes.
--	---	--	--

Clue #4: Find It!
Circle the boxes that have an -ar sound. Cross out the -ir, -ur, -er sounds. Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

the	girl	boy	thief
stand	is	not	sitting
pants	down	green	

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

the thief is not sitting down

Clue #4: Find It!
Circle the boxes that have an -ar sound. Cross out the -ir, -ur, -er sounds. Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

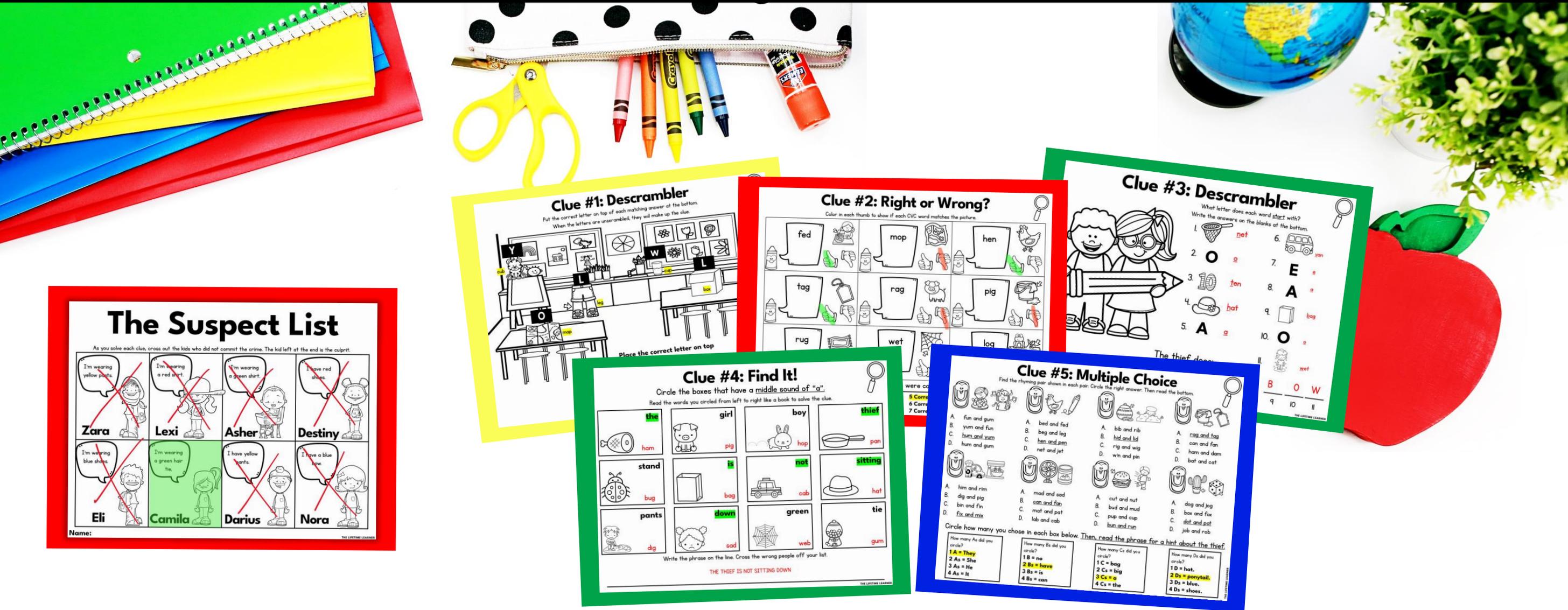
the	girl	boy	thief
stand	is	not	sitting
pants	down	green	tie

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

the thief is not sitting down

Short & Long Options

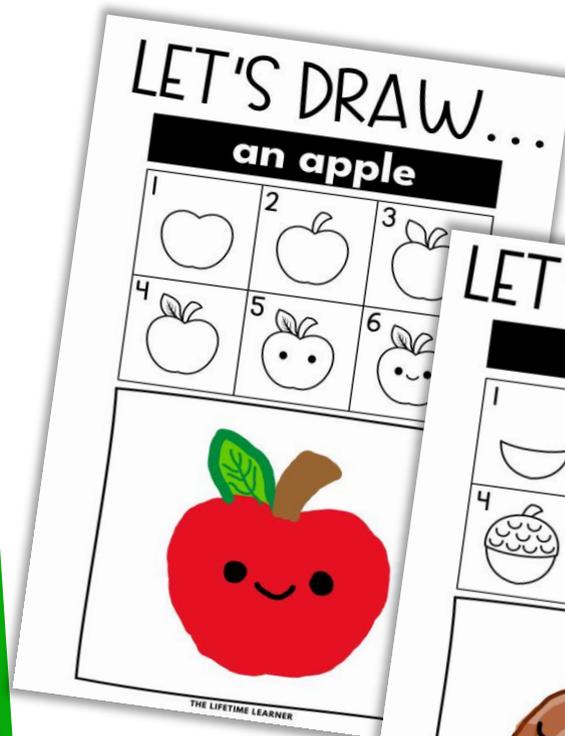
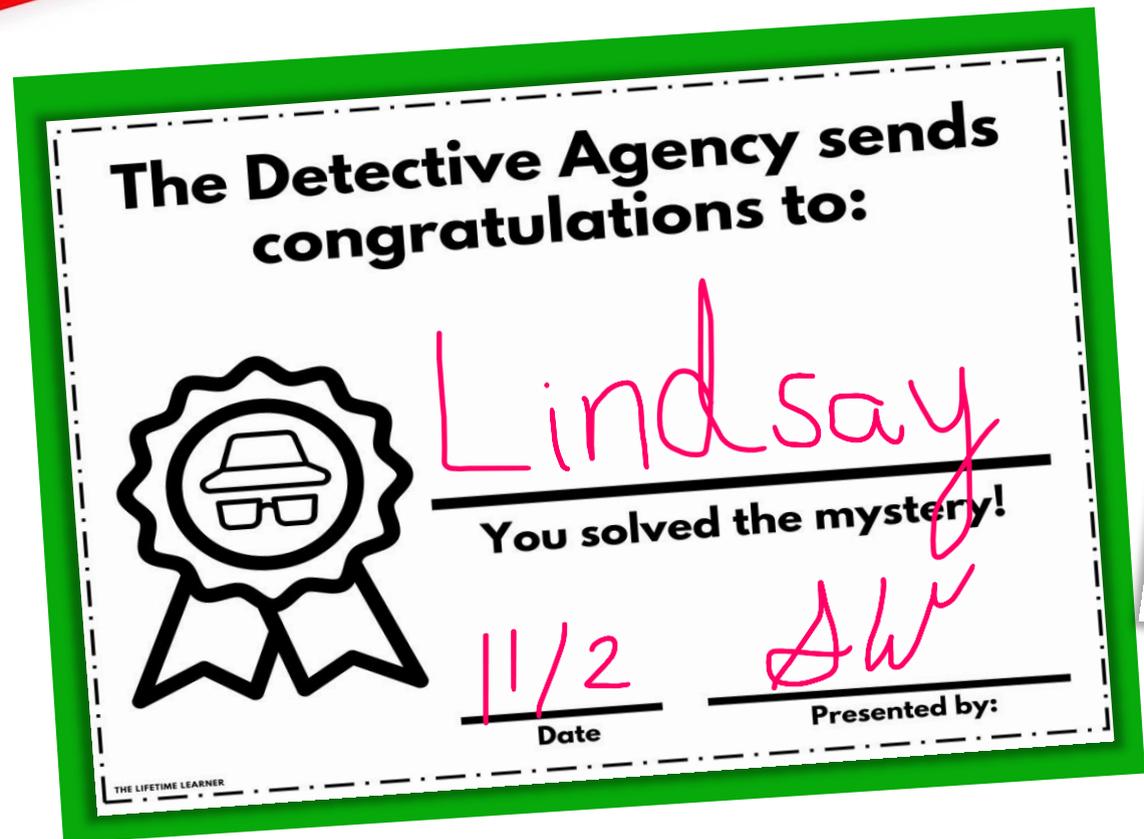
CVC OPTION AVAILABLE



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.

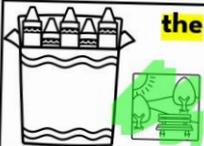
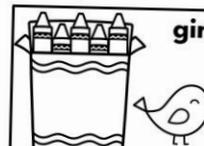
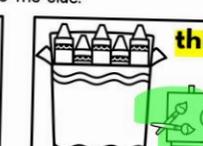
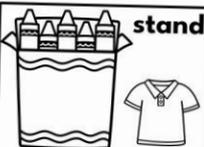
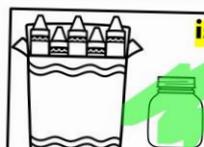
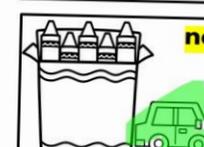
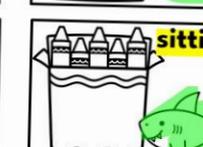
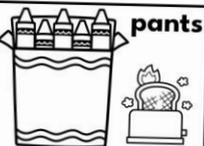
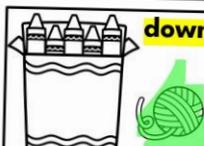
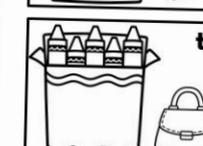
PHONICS MYSTERY BENEFITS



- 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 Review Mystery OR CVC Words Mystery. You can even mix/match clues to combine the 2 skills together (clues are interchangeable)!

Clue #4: Find It!

Circle the boxes that have an -ar sound. Cross out the -ir, -ur, -er sounds.
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

 the	 girl	 boy	 thief
 stand	 is	 not	 sitting
 pants	 down	 green	 tie

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

the thief is not sitting down

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

In 2nd grade, this works well in small groups or partners.

Students will love this review of 1st grade phonics skills!

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: Descrambler
Put the correct letter on top of each matching answer at the bottom.

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The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:

Lindsay

You solved the mystery!

11/2 *AW*

Date Presented by:

LET'S DRAW...
an apple

LET'S DRAW...
an acorn

The Suspect List

As you solve each clue, cross out the kids who did not commit the crime. The kid left at the end is the culprit.

Zara: I'm wearing yellow pants.	Lexi: I'm wearing a red shirt.	Asher: I'm wearing a green shirt.	Destiny: I have red shoes.
Eli: I'm wearing blue shoes.	Camila: I'm wearing a green hair tie.	Darius: I'm wearing yellow pants.	Nora: I have a blue bow.

Name:

solve the mystery

The Case of the Missing Pencil

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: Descrambler
Put the correct letter on top of each matching answer at the bottom. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

Place the correct letter on top of each matching answer.

The thief is not wearing...
Y E L L O W

note case game dice slide cube

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Example of Clue 1

Math

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

72 92 29 27 97 22 99 77 79

92 77 22 27 79 97 29 99 72

90÷2 70÷7 20÷2 20÷7 70÷9 90÷7 20÷9 90÷9 70÷2

N O B O O K B A G

The culprit has...
A= [apple] G= [game] M= [man] S= [slide] Y= [yellow]
B= [book] H= [house] N= [note] T= [table] Z= [zipper]
C= [case] I= [ice cream] O= [orange] U= [umbrella] V= [vase]
D= [dice] J= [jelly] P= [pencil] W= [wheel] X= [x-ray]
E= [egg] L= [lemon] R= [ruler] X= [x-ray]

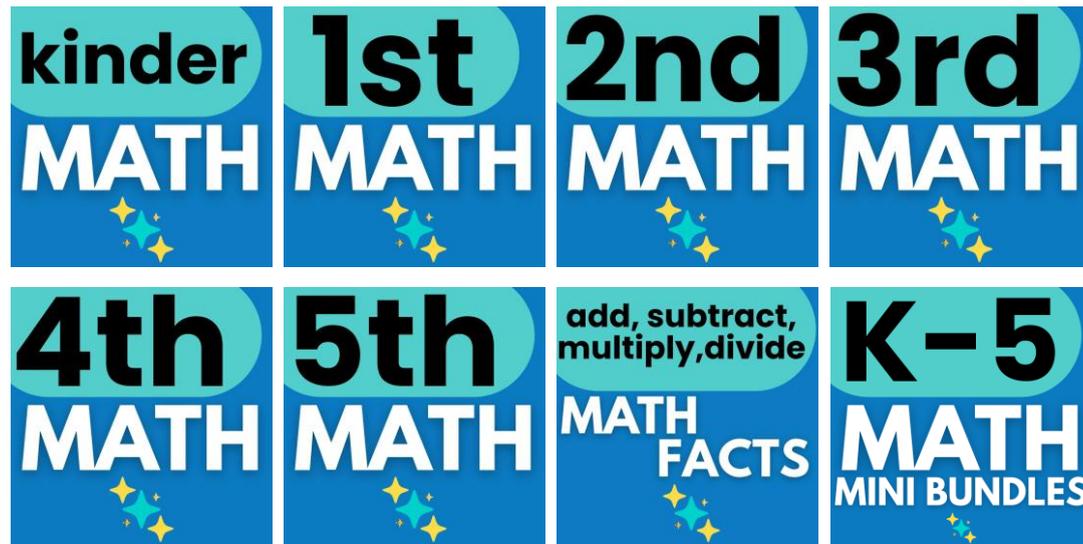
Use this decoder to help you figure out what letter is equal to each picture.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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!**

