

WHAT IS THIS?

Clue #1: Error Analysis
Does the sentence match the picture? 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 word belongs in each sentence? Color in each. Then, read the bottom.

Clue #4: Word Hunt
Read the box at the bottom.

Clue #5: Find It!
Does the picture match the sentence? Circle the correct boxes.
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

solve the mystery
The Case of the Missing Zoo Animal

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

Does the sentence match the picture? 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><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The monkey is afraid of the lion.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I dropped a <u>raisin</u> by the zoo snack stand.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The zoo has a <u>mailbox</u> near the gate.</p>	<p>The animal is not from the Arctic Zone.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The cow at the zoo sleeps by the haystack.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I drew a map of the zoo with my <u>crayon</u>.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We ate a <u>layer</u> of the cake at the zoo picnic.</p>	<p>The animal is not from the African Zone.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In winter, they do free sleigh rides at the zoo.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I saw <u>eight</u> giraffes at the zoo today.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> My neighbor came with us to the zoo.</p>
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THE LIFETIME LEARNER

What Animal Escaped?

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

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

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

Vowel Teams Review:

- Long A, E, I, O, U
- Multi-Syllable Words
- Error Analysis
- Fill in the Blank
- Match Picture to Word

Clue #1: Error Analysis

Does the sentence match the picture? 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.

☒ The monkey is afraid of the lion.

☒ I dropped a raisin by the zoo snack stand.

☒ The zoo has a mailbox near the gate.

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.

stoplight butterfly flashlight skydive lightning

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 =	

Clue #3: Color the Zoo

What word belongs in each sentence? Color in each. Then, read the bottom.

I found a _____ on a _____.

The _____ as _____.

The _____ swings by me on a vine.

We watched the _____ swim in the water tank.

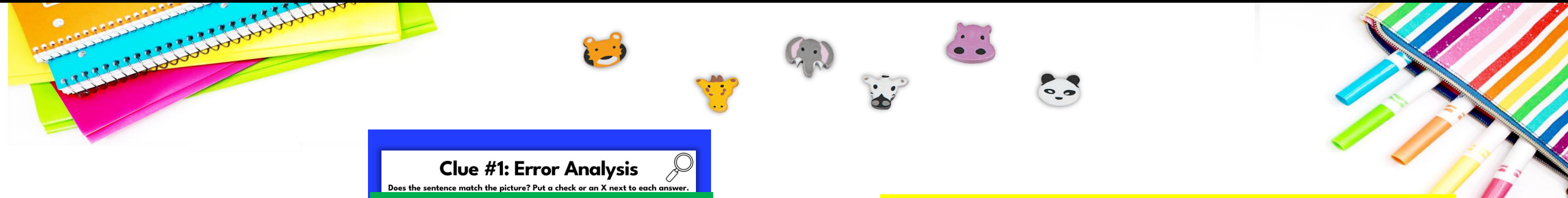
for your next hint!

- 2 red
- 3 blue
- 1 green
- 10 yellow

The animal does not have spots.

All clues focus on reviewing vowel teams!

MULTIPLE VERSIONS



Print & Digital Forms

Clue #1: Error Analysis

Does the sentence match the picture? 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 word belongs in each sentence? Color in each. Then, read the bottom.

<p>I saw a with feathers walk by the pond.</p>	<p>The at the zoo built a big dam.</p>	<p>I found a on a leaf near the garden.</p>	<p>The at the zoo has big antlers.</p>
<p>The swings by me on a vine.</p>	<p>We watched the swim in the water tank.</p>		

☐ parrot - color it red

☐ penguin - color it blue

☐ panther - color it yellow

☐ peacock - color it blue

☐ jellyfish - color it red

☐ starfish - color green

☐ shark - color it yellow

☐ whale - color it blue

3 Clue Version

☐ 2 red

☐ 2 blue

☐ 1 green

☐ 1 yellow

☐ 2 blue

☐ 0 green

☐ 1 yellow

The animal does not go in a tree.

The animal does not have long legs.

The animal does not lay any eggs.

The animal does not have spots.

Clue #1: Error Analysis

Does the sentence match the picture? 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 word belongs in each sentence? Color in each. Then, read the bottom.





Clue #4: Word Hunt

Read the box at the bottom.





Clue #5: Find It!

Does the picture match the sentence? Circle the correct boxes.

Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

 no	 the	 big	 animal
I dropped a nut called a <u>sashere</u> on the ground at the zoo.	The peacock at the zoo had <u>feathers</u> that <u>sway</u> .	The zookeeper used a <u>screwdriver</u> to fix the <u>trunk</u> .	My baby <u>anbyas</u> came with <u>an</u> to the zoo today. <u>an</u> is my mom's sister.

5 Clue Version

 no	 the	 big	 white
The parrots <u>see</u> <u>argues</u> and talk their cages.	The zoo has a splash <u>pad</u> so I wore my <u>animal</u> there.	The monkey loves his <u>fruity</u> treats like bananas at the zoo.	We saw a <u>bluebird</u> on the fence by the hippos.


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

the animal is black and white


Clue #3: Color the Zoo

What word belongs in each sentence? Color in each. Then, read the bottom.


I saw a _____ with feathers walk by the pond.




The _____ at the zoo built a big dam.




I found a _____ on a leaf near the garden.




The _____ at the zoo has big antlers.



The _____ swings by me on a vine.



We watched the _____ swim in the water tank.



☐ parrot - color it red
☐ penguin - color it green
☐ panther - color it yellow
☒ peacock - color it blue






☐ bear - color it red
☐ bobcat - color it green
☒ beaver - color it yellow
☐ bat - color it blue

☒ ladybug - color it red
☐ lion - color it green
☐ lizard - color it yellow
☐ lemur - color it blue

☐ rabbit - color it red
☐ robin - color it green
☐ rat - color it yellow
☒ render - color it blue
☐ monkey - color it blue

☐ moose - color it red
☐ donkey - color it green
☐ mouse - color it yellow
☐ shark - color it blue
☐ whale - color it blue

☒ jellyfish - color it red
☐ starfish - color green
☐ shark - color it yellow
☐ whale - color it blue

What color signs do you see? Find the key that matches for you.

- 2 red
- 2 blue
- 1 green
- 1 yellow

The animal does not go in a tree.


- 3 red
- 2 blue
- 0 green
- 1 yellow

The animal does not have long legs.

- 2 red
- 3 blue
- 0 green
- 1 yellow

The animal does not lay eggs.

I saw a _____ with feathers walk by the pond.




☐ parrot - color it red
☐ penguin - color it green
☐ panther - color it yellow

☐ bear - color it red
☐ bobcat - color it green
☐ beaver - color it yellow


Clue #3: Color the Zoo

What word belongs in each sentence? Color in each. Then, read the bottom.


I saw a _____ with feathers walk by the pond.




The _____ at the zoo built a big dam.




I found a _____ on a leaf near the garden.




The _____ at the zoo has big antlers.



The _____ swings by me on a vine.



We watched the _____ swim in the water tank.



☐ parrot - color it red

☐ penguin - color it green

☐ panther - color it yellow

☒ peacock - color it blue

☐ bear - color it red

☐ beaver - color it green

☒ beaver - color it yellow

☐ bat - color it blue

☒ ladybug - color it red

☐ lion - color it green

☐ lizard - color it yellow

☐ lizard - color it blue

☐ rabbit - color it red

☐ robin - color it green

☐ rat - color it yellow

☒ ranger - color it blue

☐ moose - color it red

☐ donkey - color it green

☐ mouse - color it yellow







☒ monkey - color it blue

☒ fish - color it red

☐ starfish - color green

☐ shark - color it yellow

☐ whale - color it blue



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

- 2 red
- 2 blue
- 1 green
- 1 yellow

The animal does not go in a tree.

- 3 red
- 2 blue
- 0 green
- 1 yellow

The animal does not have long legs.

- 2 red
- 3 blue
- 0 green
- 1 yellow

The animal does not lay any eggs.

- 2 red
- 3 blue
- 1 green
- 10 yellow

The animal does not have spots.

THE LITTLE LEARNERS

Short & Long Options

CVC OPTION AVAILABLE

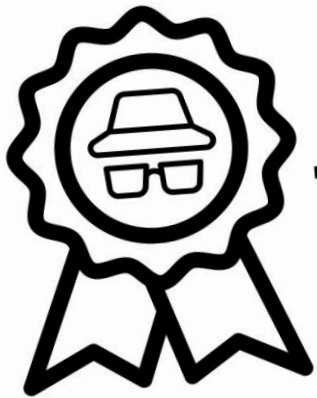


Differentiate within your small groups. Same clues. Same mystery. Different focus!

There is a version of the mystery included that reviews CVC Words (Short A, E, I, O, U).

FAST FINISHER ACTIVITY

The Detective Agency sends
congratulations to:



Lindsay

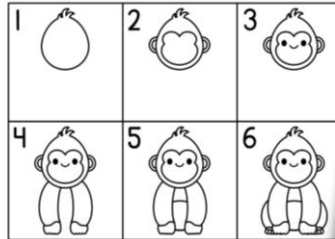
You solved the mystery!

11/2
Date

AW
Presented by:

LET'S DRAW...

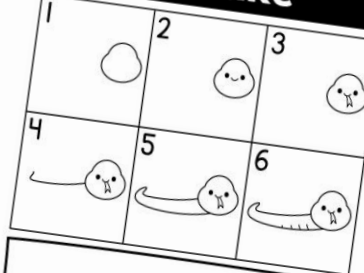
a gorilla



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

LET'S DRAW...

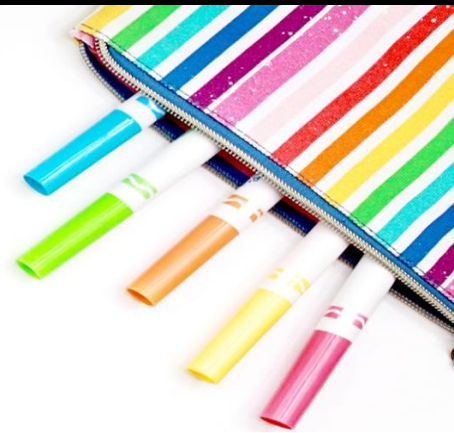
a snake



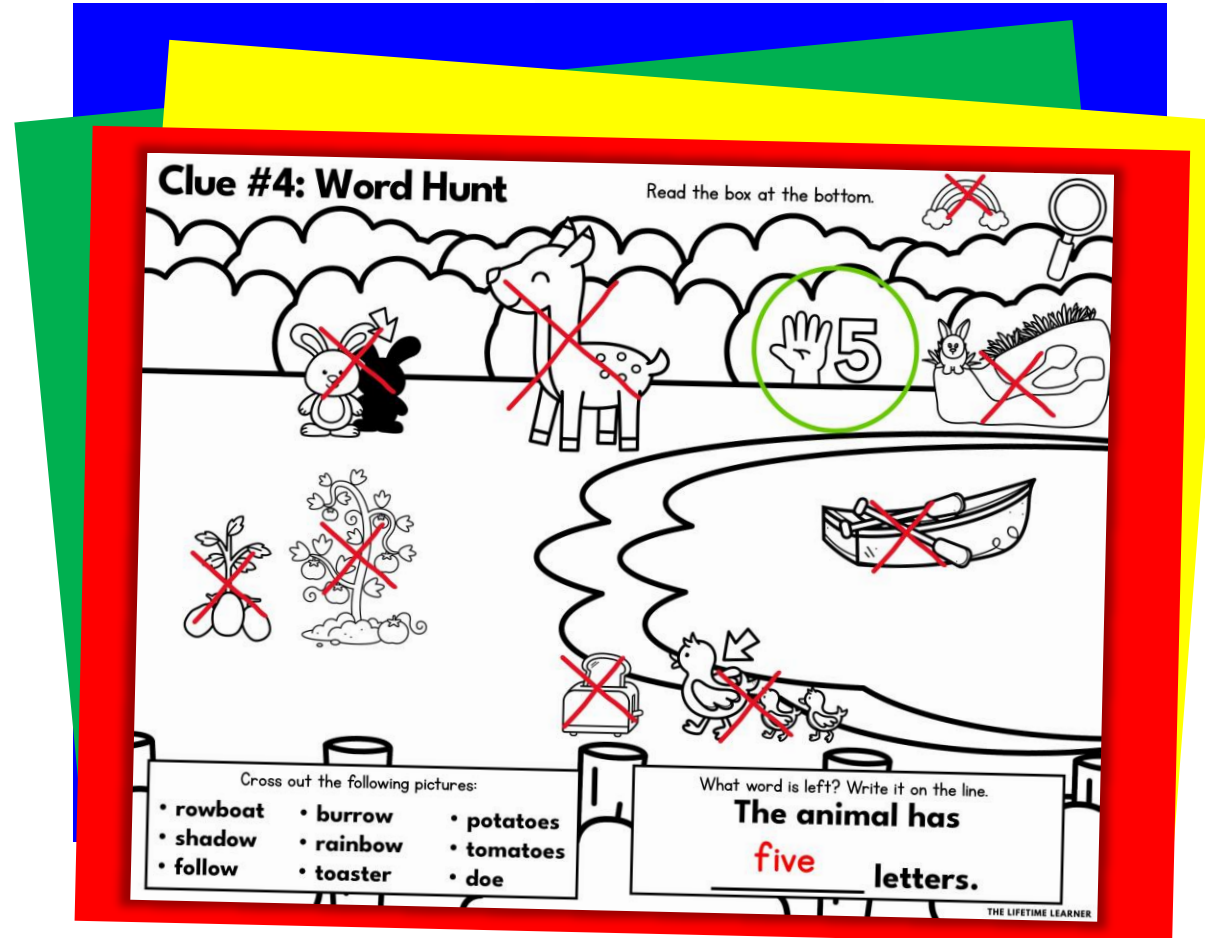
THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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



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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Clue #5: Find It!
Does the picture match the sentence? Circle the correct boxes.
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no I dropped a nut called a sashay on the ground at the zoo.	the The peacock at the zoo had feathers that were as bright as jewels.	big The zookeeper used a sashay to fix the gate.	animal My baby napsy came with me to the zoo today. I am his mom's sister.
pet The parrots seemed to argue and talk a lot in their cages.	paws The bear at the zoo loves to eat blueberries as a treat.	is I needed a tissue after I sneezed by the tigers at the zoo.	trunk The zoo helps rescue sick animals in the wild.
black We are going to a zoo that is far away so I pack my suitcases.	and The zoo has a splash pad so I wore my swimsuit there.	gray The monkey loves his fruity treats like bananas at the zoo.	white We saw a bluebird on the fence by the hippos.

Write the phrase on the line. Cross the wrong animal off your list.
the animal is black and white

The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:

Lindsay
You solved the mystery!

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

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 of the zoo.	Peacock I live in the Forest Zone of the zoo.	Snake I live in Forest Zone of the zoo.	Seal I live in Water Zone of the zoo.
Penguin I live in the Arctic Zone of the zoo.	Flamingo I live in Water Zone of the zoo.	Polar Bear I live in the Arctic Zone of the zoo.	Hippo I live in the African Zone of the zoo.

Name:

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.

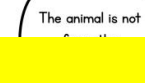
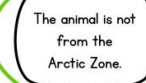
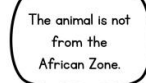





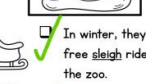

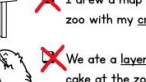
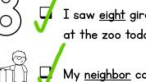
Reading

Example of Clue 1

Math

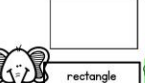







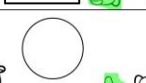
Clue #1: Error Analysis

Does the sentence match the picture? 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 Arctic Zone.	 The animal is not from the Arctic Zone.	 The animal is not from the African Zone.
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The monkey is afraid of the lion.	 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The cow at the zoo sleeps by the haystack.	 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In winter, they do free sleigh rides at the zoo.
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I dropped a raisin by the zoo snack stand.	 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I drew a map of the zoo with my crayon.	 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I saw eight giraffes at the zoo today.
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The zoo has a mailbox near the gate.	 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We ate a layer of the cake at the zoo picnic.	 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> My neighbor came with us to the zoo.

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.

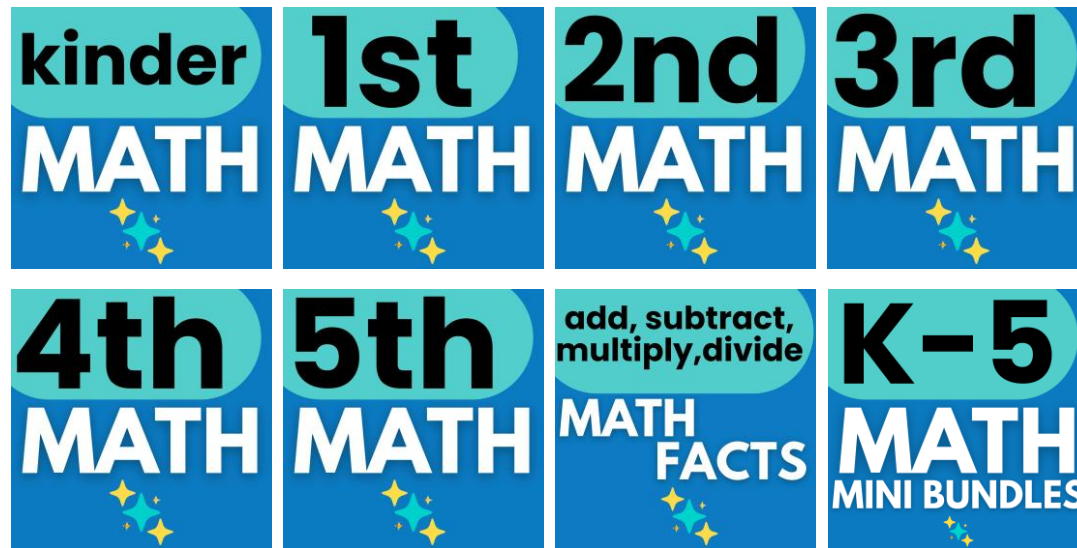
How many answers were correct?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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!

