

# 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.  
cab ran gum nut fan hip yum

**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  
SLEIGH GARAGE  
GINGERBREAD HOUSE  
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!

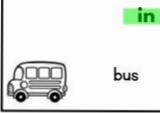
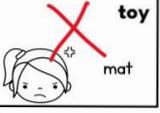


THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## 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.

 <b>Santa</b> bug	 <del>will</del> pit	 <b>is</b> mop	 <del>can</del> rag
 <b>not</b> fed	 <b>in</b> bus	 <del>cup</del> lit	 <b>his</b> fox
 <del>elf</del> map	 <del>pet</del> bib	 <b>bed</b> fog	 <del>toy</del> mat

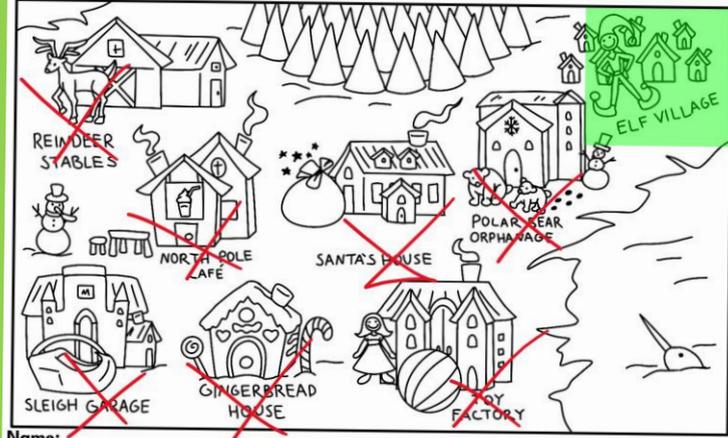
Write the phrase on the line. Cross the wrong place off your list.

**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

## CVC Word Review!

- Short A
- Short E
- Short I
- Short O
- Short U
- Rhyming Words / Word Families
- Onset and Rime
- Blending Sounds

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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 #1: Read It Like a Book** (Detailed view):  
Words: Santa, will, is, can  
Boxes: bug (Santa), fed (not), elf (X), map (X)

**Clue #2: Holiday Lights** (Detailed view):  
Words: ca \_\_, do \_\_, ne \_\_, cu \_\_, da \_\_, di \_\_  
Options: A. t - red, B. n - green, C. b - yellow, D. p - brown  
Options: A. g - red, B. b - green, C. x - yellow, D. t - brown  
Options: A. t - red, B. g - green, C. k - yellow, D. l - brown  
Options: A. t - red, B. b - green, C. b - yellow, D. p - brown  
Options: A. b - red, B. d - green, C. n - yellow, D. m - brown  
Options: A. g - red, B. z - green, C. p - yellow, D. m - brown

**Clue #3: Right or Wrong?** (Detailed view):  
Words: vet, fin, top, van

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 Santa is not near any polar bears at this time.	• 1 red light • 1 brown light • 2 green lights • 2 yellow lights Santa is not in his garage at this time.	• 1 red light • 2 brown lights • 1 green light • 2 yellow lights Santa is not near any candy at this time.	• 2 red lights • 1 brown light • 2 green lights • 1 yellow light Santa is not near any toys at this time.
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**All clues focus on reviewing CVC words!**

# MULTIPLE VERSIONS



## Print & Digital Forms

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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.

**3 Clue Version**

How many words 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**

**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.

**5 Clue Version**

Santa was not near any S N O W M E N today.  
cab ran gum nut fan hip yum

**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. b - yellow D. p - brown  
A. g - red B. b - green C. x - yellow D. t - brown  
A. t - red B. g - green C. k - yellow D. l - brown  
A. f - red B. b - green C. n - yellow D. p - brown  
A. b - red B. d - green C. n - yellow D. m - brown  
A. g - red B. z - green C. p - yellow D. m - 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

Santa is not near any polar bears at this time.

- 1 red light
- 1 brown light
- 2 green lights
- 2 yellow lights

Santa is not in his garage at this time.

- 1 red light
- 2 brown lights
- 1 green light
- 2 yellow lights

Santa is not near any candy at this time.

- 2 red lights
- 1 brown light
- 2 green lights
- 1 yellow light

Santa is not near any toys at this time.

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

ca do ne cu da di

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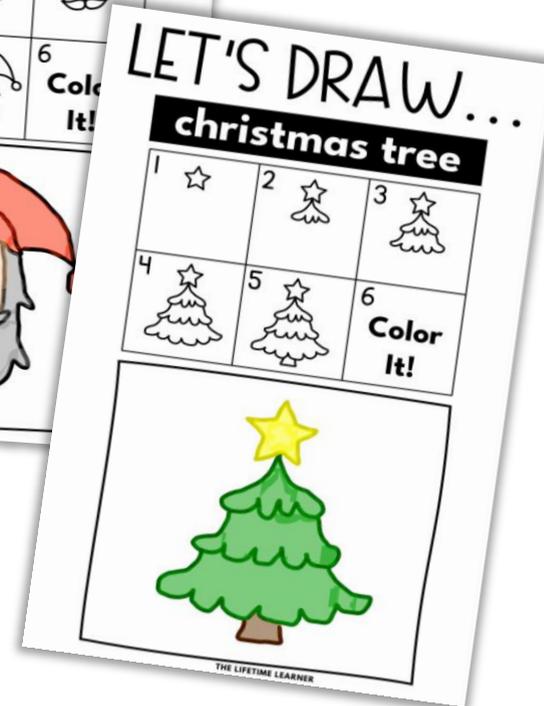
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## Short & Long Options

# 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

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**

The worksheet shows a Christmas scene with a tree, a wreath, a clock, a table with gifts, and a dog. Various objects are labeled with words: pin, bag, nut, pan, jug, pen, sun, and six. Some words are crossed out with a red line. A magnifying glass icon is in the top right corner.

Cross out the following words:

What word is left? Write it on the line.

Santa is not near any \_\_\_\_\_ **toys** \_\_\_\_\_

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

In K-1, this works well as a whole group lesson or in small groups at the teacher table.

Students will need teacher support to read & understand the clues/directions.

# 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.  
cab ran gum nut fan hip yum

The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:

**Lindsay**

You solved the mystery!

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

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~~ ~~POLAR BEAR ORPHANAGE~~ **ELF VILLAGE**

~~SLEIGH GARAGE~~ ~~GINGERBREAD HOUSE~~ ~~FACTORY~~

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

**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

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<b>Santa</b>	<del>will</del>	<b>is</b>	<del>can</del>
<b>in</b>	<del>pit</del>	<del>cup</del>	<b>his</b>
<del>elf</del>	<del>pet</del>	<b>bed</b>	<del>toy</del>

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**

56 full	78 and	29 reindeer	66 someone	88 by	48 it
38 garage	19 village	68 you	58 the	64 sleigh	96 bear
17 toy	98 empty	23 Santa	60 elf	28 stopped	18 was

Answer: Word: 68 you 68-10 58 the 38+10 48 it  
38-10 28 stopped 28+10 38 garage 28-10 18 was  
78+10 88 by 88-10 78 and 88+10 98 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!**

