

# WHAT IS THIS?



## Clue #1: Sorting Letters

Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

## Clue #2: Error Analysis

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

## Clue #3: Find It!

Circle the boxes that end with **-an**. Cross out the other sounds. Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

## Clue #4: Word Hunt



## Clue #5: Descrambler

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

			
 him	 six	 hid	 sip
			
 pin	 lid	 hit	 wig

The mailman is not at a place where you can:

**B U Y G I F T S**  
six pin hit sip lid hid him wig

# solve the mystery



## The Case of the Missing Mailman

## Where is the Mailman?

Figure out where the mailman is by solving each clue.

			
Shoe Store	Car Repair Shop	Toy Store	Home Repair Shop
			
Candy Store	Post Office	Flower Shop	Jewelry Shop

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

Students complete a series of clues to figure out where the missing mailman is!

# HOW TO PLAY

## What Happened?

You need to get in touch with your mailman, but you can't find him anywhere! You know that he's somewhere around town but can't figure out the right place. Help find out where he is by solving the clues.

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



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## Clue #1: Sorting Letters

Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

yellow -og	red -ob	green -ot	blue -op
hop	log	dot	pot
dog	pot	hot	pop
rob			

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| The mailman is <u>not</u> near any toys if you see:   | The mailman is <u>not</u> near any cars if you see:  | The mailman is <u>not</u> near any shoes if you see:   | The mailman is <u>not</u> near any gems if you see:   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 yellow note</li> <li>• 2 red notes</li> <li>• 5 green notes</li> <li>• 2 blue notes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 yellow notes</li> <li>• 0 red notes</li> <li>• 2 green notes</li> <li>• 5 blue notes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 yellow notes</li> <li>• 2 red notes</li> <li>• 4 green notes</li> <li>• 2 blue notes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 yellow notes</li> <li>• 1 red note</li> <li>• 5 green notes</li> <li>• 2 blue notes</li> </ul> |

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## Where is the Mailman?

Figure out where the mailman is by solving each clue.

<del>Shoe Store</del>	<del>Car Repair Shop</del>	<del>Toy Store</del>	Home Repair Shop
<del>Candy Store</del>	<del>Post Office</del>	<del>Flower Shop</del>	<del>Jewelry Shop</del>

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

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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

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

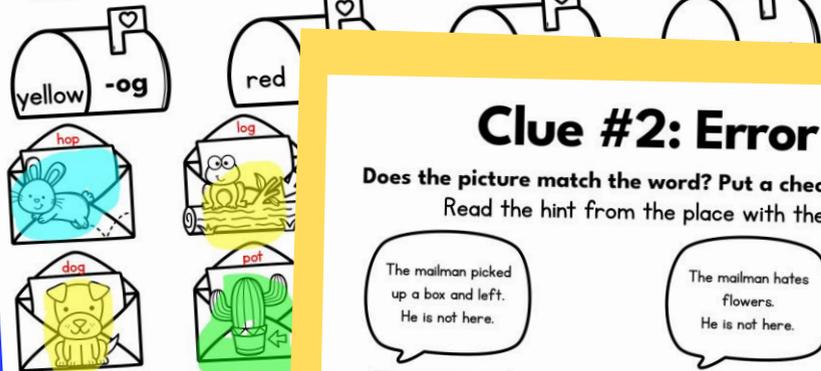
# SKILL PRACTICE

## CVC Word Review!

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

### Clue #1: Sorting Letters

Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!



The mailman is not near any toys if you see:

- 1 yellow note
- 2 red notes
- 5 green notes
- 2 blue notes

The mailman is not near any toys if you see:

- 3 yellow notes
- 0 red notes
- 2 green notes
- 5 blue notes

### Clue #2: Error Analysis

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

The mailman picked up a box and left. He is not here.



The mailman hates flowers. He is not here.



The mailman thinks it stinks in the shop. He is not here.



### Clue #3: Find It!

Circle the boxes that end with **-an**. Cross out the other sounds. Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

pay

not

fan

foot

wag

go

pan

off your list.

bag

fix

place

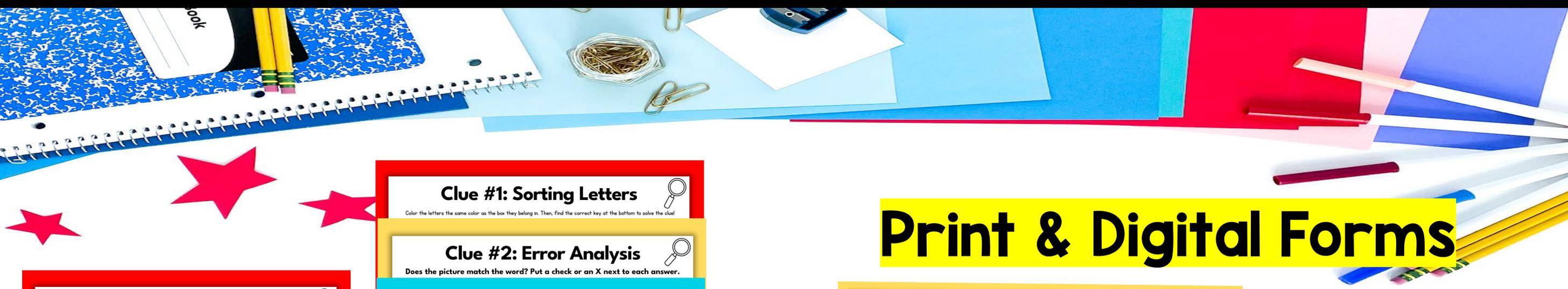
man

smell

ham

**All clues focus on reviewing CVC words!**

# MULTIPLE VERSIONS



Print & Digital Forms

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**Clue #3: Find It!**  
Circle the boxes that end with -an. Cross out the other sounds.  
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

map	mail	pay	not	bag	fix
place	man	smell	can	pan	ham

Write the phrase on the line. Cross the wrong place off your list.  
**NOT A PLACE KIDS GO**

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

	T	B	F	G				
	<b>B</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>S</b>
	six	pin	hit	tip	lid	hid	him	wig

The mailman is not at a place where you can:  
**B U Y G I F T S**

**Clue #2: Error Analysis**  
Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer.  
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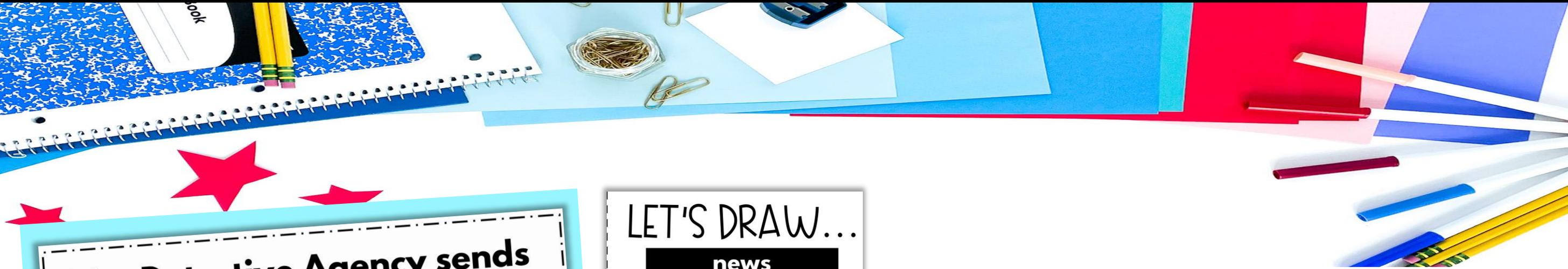
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Short & Long Options

# FAST FINISHER ACTIVITY

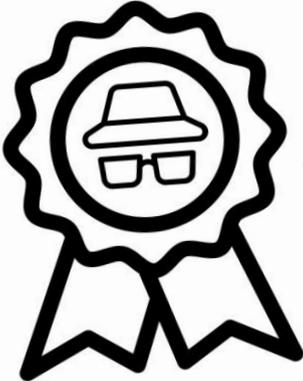


**The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:**

*Lindsay*

**You solved the mystery!**

*11/2* Date      *AW* Presented by:



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

LET'S DRAW...

**news**

1	2	3
4	5	6



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

LET'S DRAW...

**a house**

1	2	3
4	5	6



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

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**

Cross out the following pictures:

• gem	• men	• ten	• fed
• web	• jet	• net	• pen

What 2 pictures are left? Write the 2 words on the line. car or candy.

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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The mailman is not at a place where you can:

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The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:



**Lindsay**

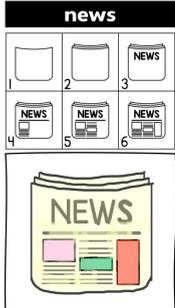
You solved the mystery!

**11/2** **SW**

Date Presented by:

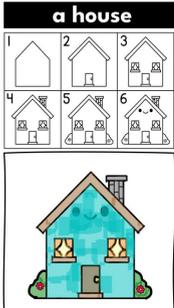
LET'S DRAW...

**news**



LET'S DRAW...

**a house**



**Where is the Mailman?**

Figure out where the mailman is by solving each clue.

Name:

**solve the mystery**



**The Case of the Missing Mailman**

# 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: Sorting Letters**

Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

yellow -og    red -ob    green -ot    blue -op

log    dot    not    not

pot    hot    hot    pop

The mailman is not near any toys if you see:

- 1 yellow note
- 2 red notes
- 5 green notes
- 2 blue notes

The mailman is not near any cars if you see:

- 3 yellow notes
- 0 red notes
- 2 green notes
- 5 blue notes

The mailman is not near any shoes if you see:

- 2 yellow notes
- 2 red notes
- 4 green notes
- 2 blue notes

The mailman is not near any gems if you see:

- 2 yellow notes
- 1 red note
- 5 green notes
- 2 blue notes

Example of Clue 1

Math

**Clue #1: Right or Wrong?**

Color the envelope green if the answer is correct. Color the envelope red if it's wrong.

12:00    4:30    8:00

3:30    9:00

4:30    5:30    7:00    10:30

10:00    2:30    11:30    1:00

2:00

How many answers were correct?

1 Correct = Cross out the jewelry shop.  
2 Correct = Cross out the toy store.  
3 Correct = Cross out the shoe store.  
4 Correct = Cross out the post office.

5 Correct = Cross out the flower shop.  
6 Correct = Cross out the car repair shop.  
7 Correct = Cross out the candy store.  
8 Correct = Cross out the home repair shop.

# 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!**

