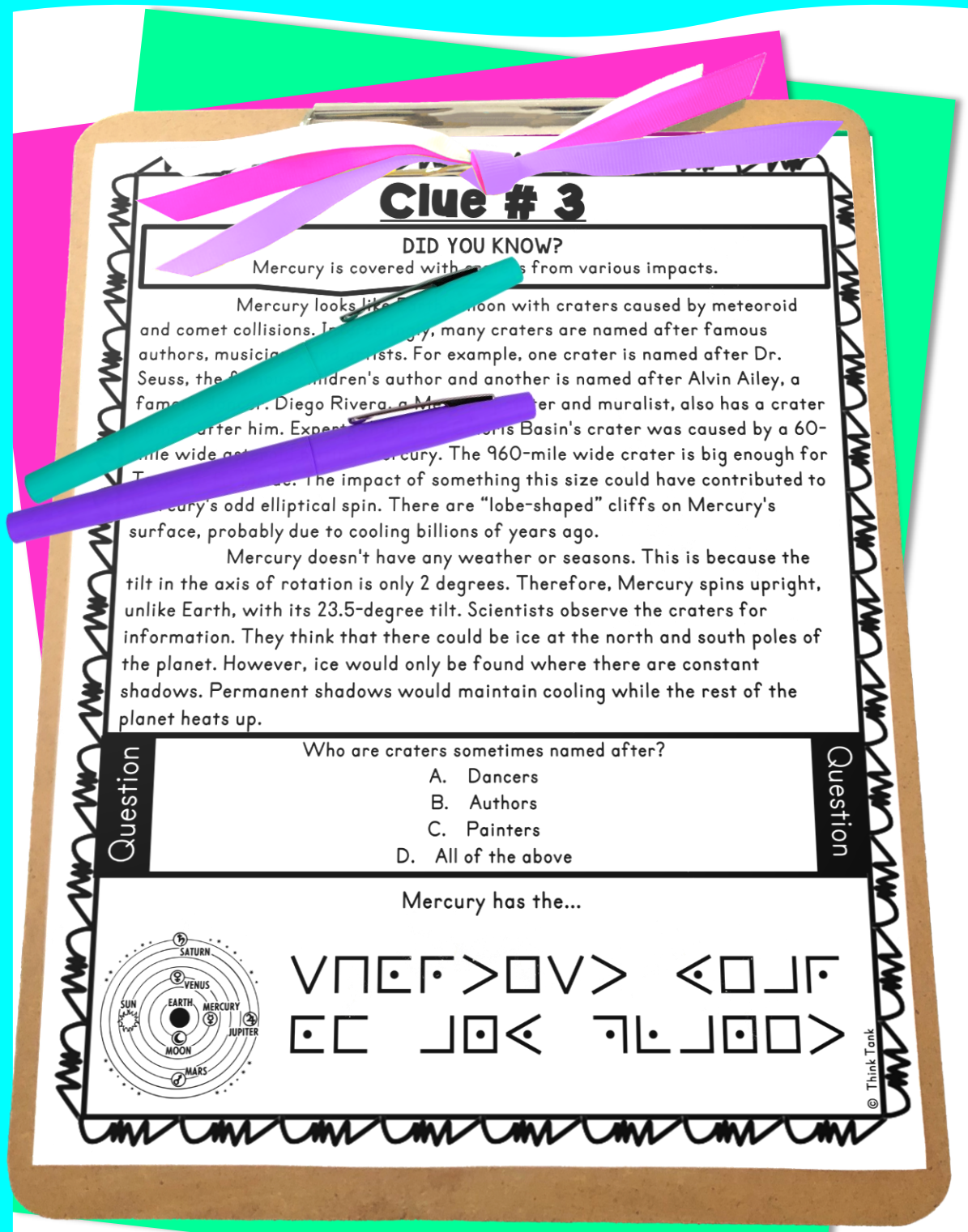
PRINT & GO!

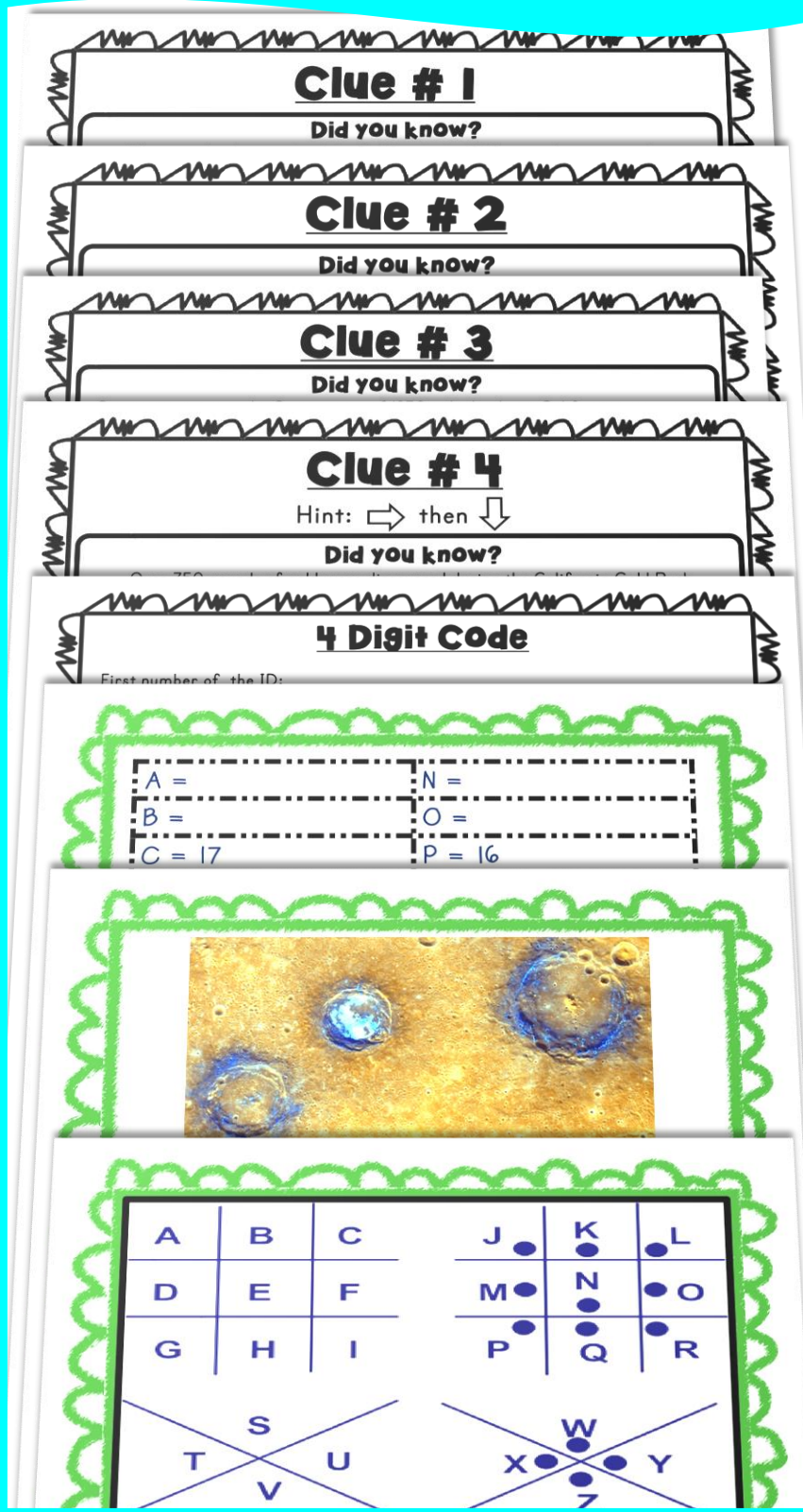


1 READ THE PASSAGE

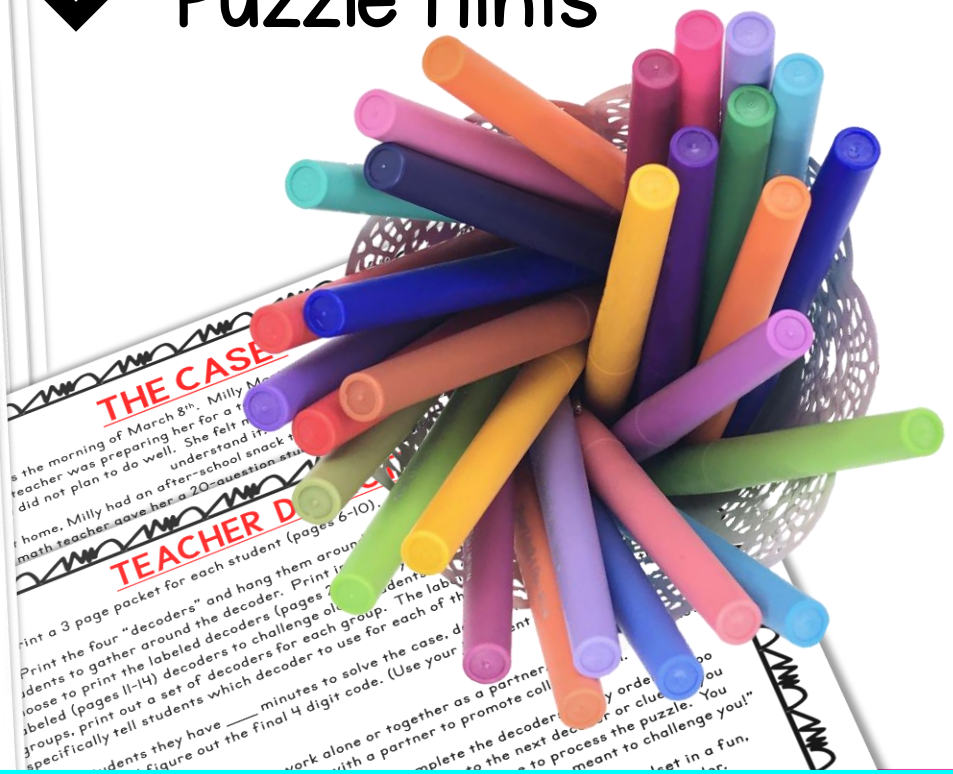
2 ANSWER QUESTIONS

3 DECODE PUZZLES

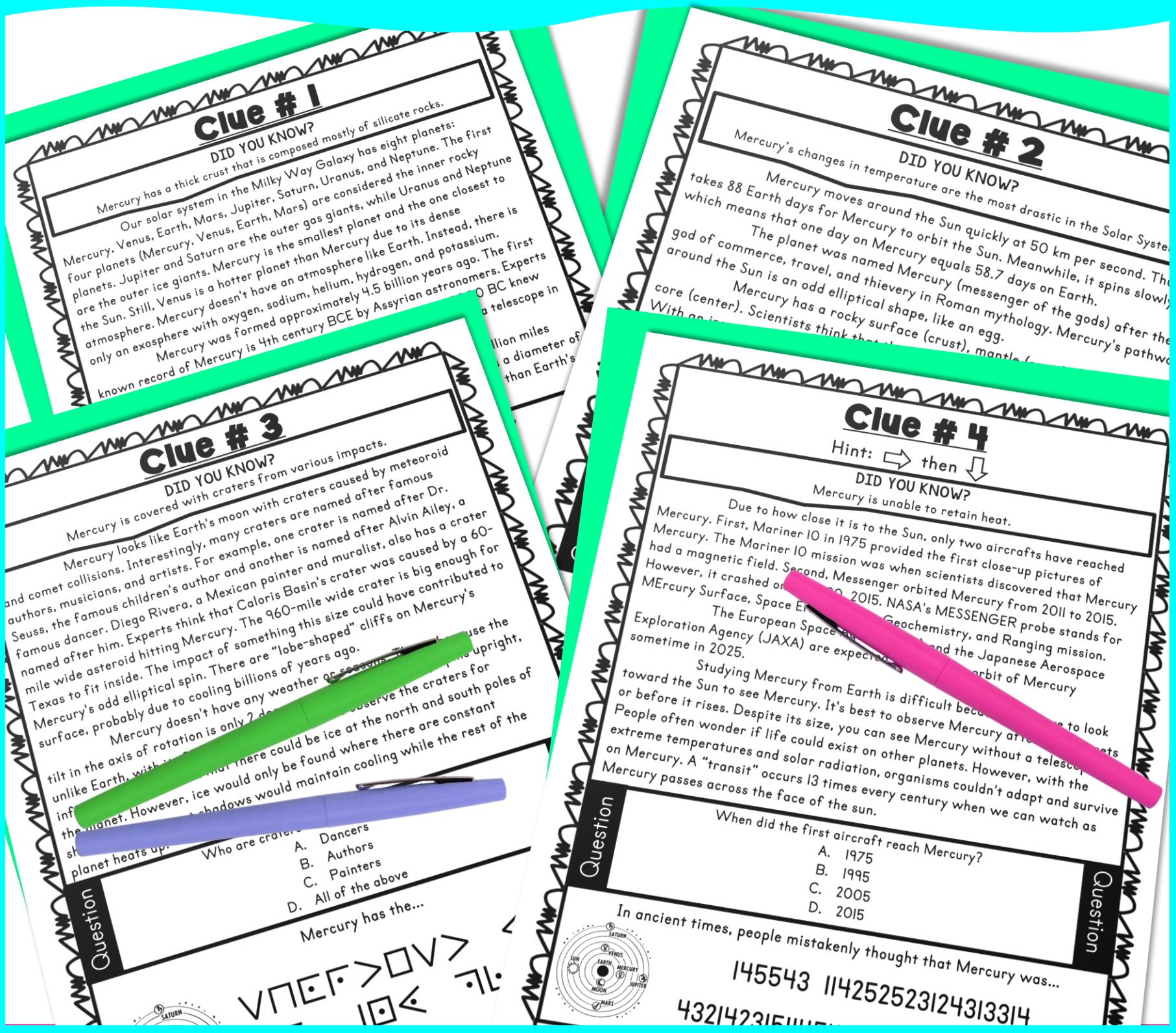
WHAT'S INCLUDED?



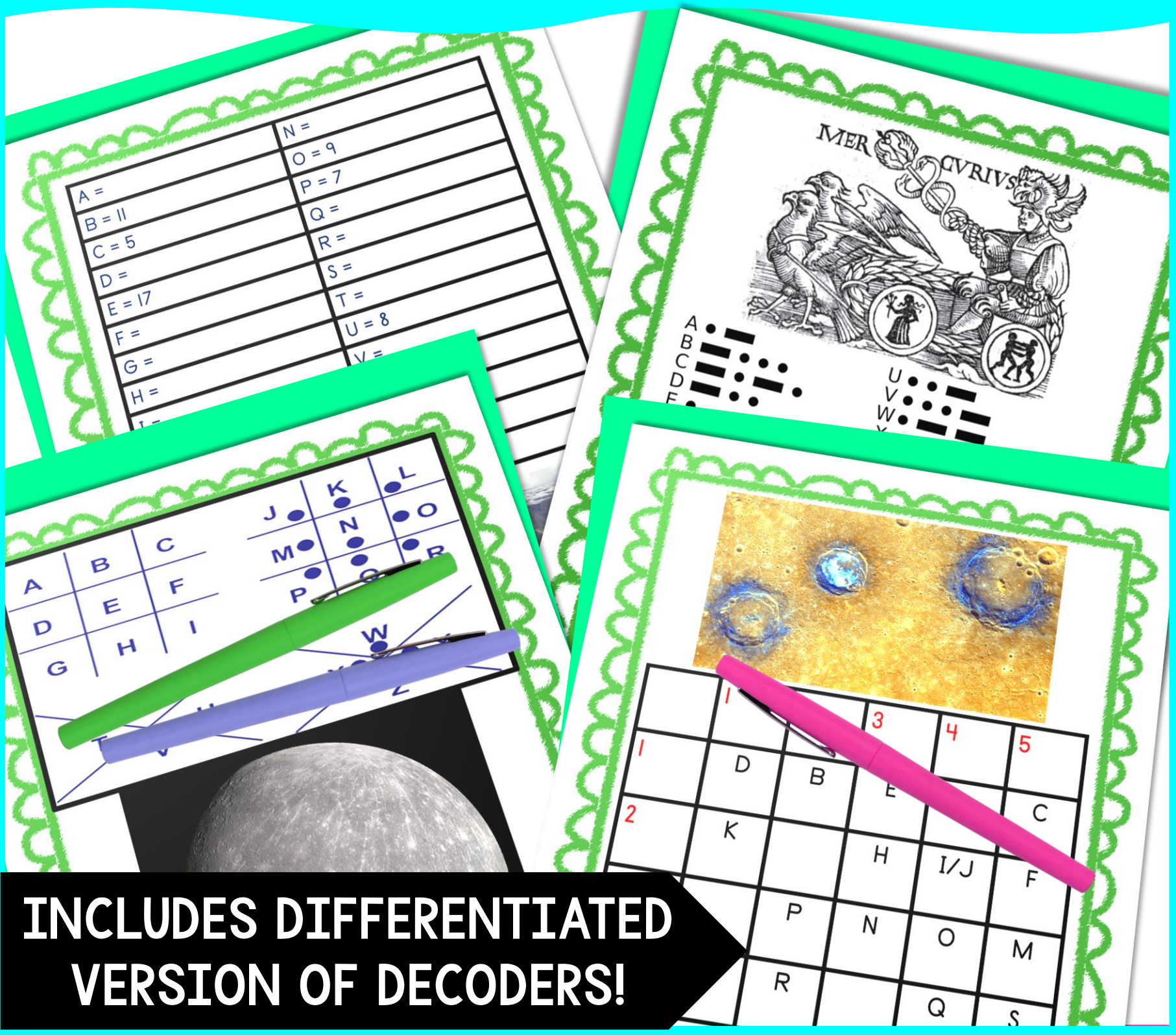
- ✔ 4 Half Page Passages
- ✔ 4 Puzzle Decoders
- ✔ Differentiated Version
- ✔ Completion Signs
- ✔ 10 Multiple Choice
- ✔ Teacher Answer Key
- ✔ Teacher Guide
- ✔ Puzzle Hints



4 PASSAGES

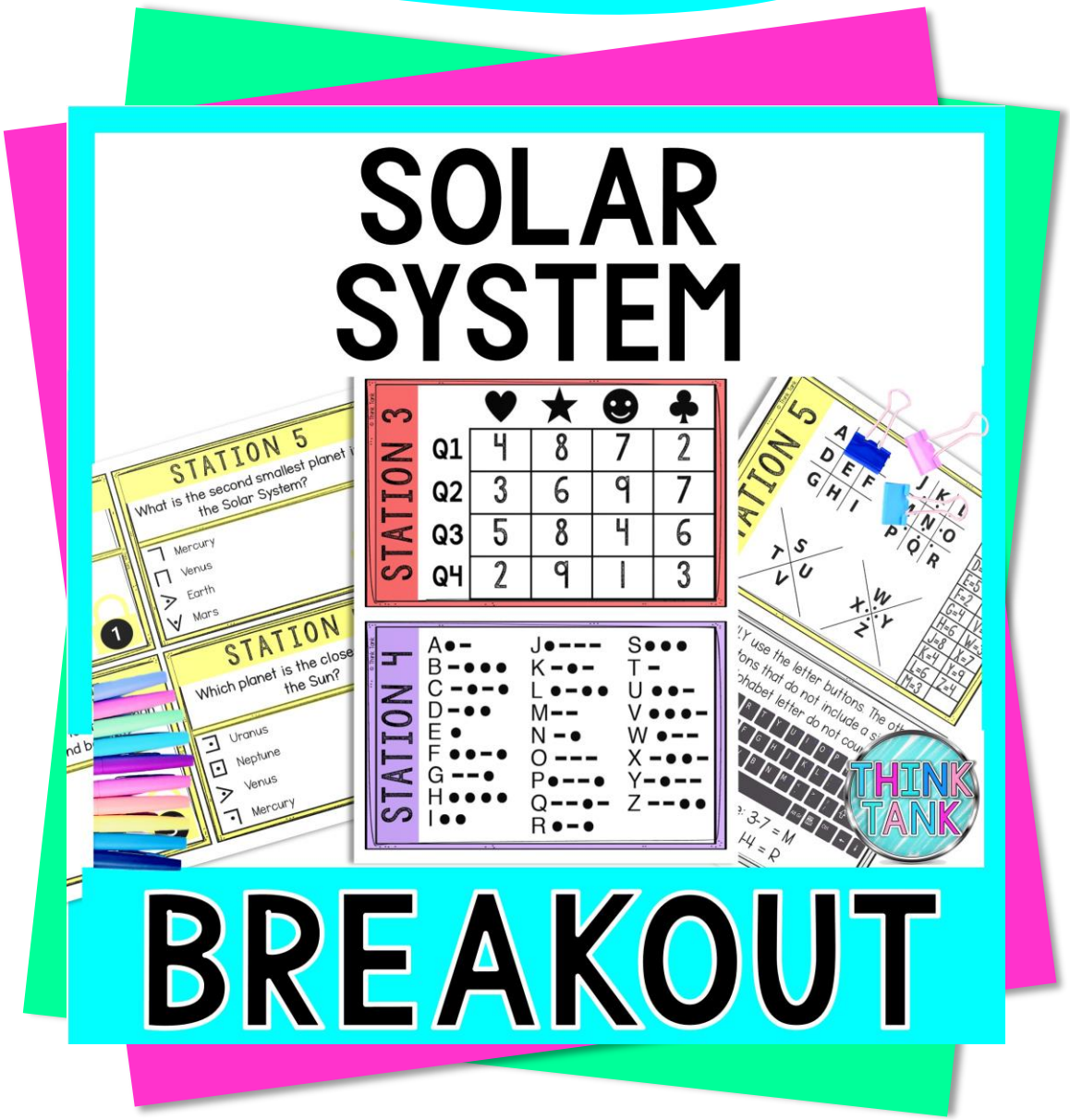

Clue # 1
DID YOU KNOW?
Mercury has a thick crust that is composed mostly of silicate rocks.
Our solar system in the Milky Way Galaxy has eight planets:
Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. The first four planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars) are considered the inner rocky planets. Jupiter and Saturn are the outer gas giants, while Uranus and Neptune are the outer ice giants. Mercury is the smallest planet and the one closest to the Sun. Still, Venus is a hotter planet than Mercury due to its dense atmosphere. Mercury doesn't have an atmosphere like Earth. Instead, there is only an exosphere with oxygen, sodium, helium, hydrogen, and potassium.
Mercury was formed approximately 4.5 billion years ago. The first known record of Mercury is 4th century BCE by Assyrian astronomers. Experts
Clue # 2
DID YOU KNOW?
Mercury's changes in temperature are the most drastic in the Solar Syste
Mercury moves around the Sun quickly at 50 km per second. Th
takes 88 Earth days for Mercury to orbit the Sun. Meanwhile, it spins slowly
which means that one day on Mercury equals 58.7 days on Earth.
The planet was named Mercury (messenger of the gods) after the
god of commerce, travel, and thievery in Roman mythology. Mercury's pathwa
around the Sun is an odd elliptical shape, like an egg.
Mercury has a rocky surface (crust), mantle (
core (center). Scientists think that
Clue # 3
DID YOU KNOW?
Mercury is covered with craters from various impacts.
Mercury looks like Earth's moon with craters caused by meteoroid and comet collisions. Interestingly, many craters are named after famous authors, musicians, and artists. For example, one crater is named after Dr. Seuss, the famous children's author and another is named after Alvin Ailey, a famous dancer. Diego Rivera, a Mexican painter and muralist, also has a crater named after him. Experts think that Caloris Basin's crater was caused by a 60-mile wide asteroid hitting Mercury. The 960-mile wide crater is big enough for Texas to fit inside. The impact of something this size could have contributed to Mercury's odd elliptical spin. There are "lobe-shaped" cliffs on Mercury's surface, probably due to cooling billions of years ago.
Mercury doesn't have any weather
tilt in the axis of rotation is only 2
unlike Earth, with
inf
the planet. However, ice would only be found where there are constant
sh
planet heats up.
Question
Who are crater
A. Dancers
B. Authors
C. Painters
D. All of the above
Mercury has the...
Clue # 4
Hint: ⇨ then ⇩
DID YOU KNOW?
Mercury is unable to retain heat.
Due to how close it is to the Sun, only two aircrafts have reached Mercury. First, Mariner 10 in 1975 provided the first close-up pictures of Mercury. The Mariner 10 mission was when scientists discovered that Mercury had a magnetic field. Second, Messenger orbited Mercury from 2011 to 2015. However, it crashed o
2015. NASA's MESSENGER probe stands for MErcury Surface, Space E
Geochemistry, and Ranging mission.
The European Space
and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) are expecti
orbit of Mercury sometime in 2025.
Studying Mercury from Earth is difficult beca
to look toward the Sun to see Mercury. It's best to observe Mercury at
or before it rises. Despite its size, you can see Mercury without a telesc
People often wonder if life could exist on other planets. However, with the extreme temperatures and solar radiation, organisms couldn't adapt and survive on Mercury. A "transit" occurs 13 times every century when we can watch as Mercury passes across the face of the sun.
Question
When did the first aircraft reach Mercury?
A. 1975
B. 1995
C. 2005
D. 2015
In ancient times, people mistakenly thought that Mercury was...
SATURN
VENUS
SUN
EARTH
MERCURY
JUPITER
MOON
MARS
145543 11425252312431331 4
4321423

4 DECODERS



INCLUDES DIFFERENTIATED VERSION OF DECODERS!

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE



CLICK HERE

Test out your students puzzle decoding skills with this Solar System Task Cards Puzzle Breakout. This activity gets students out of their seat and moving around the room! The printable task card puzzles includes 6 stations. Each station has 4 questions for a total of 24 questions related to the Solar System.