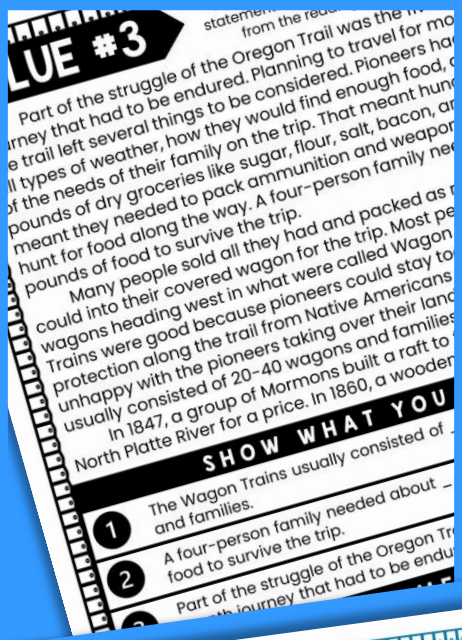
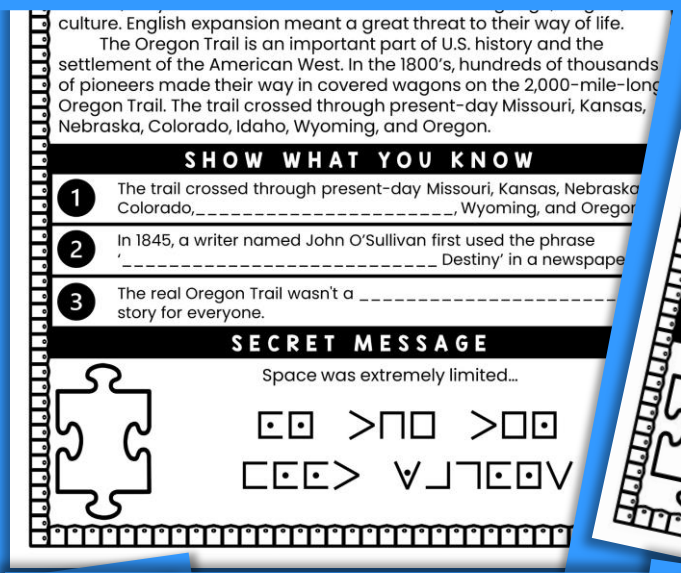
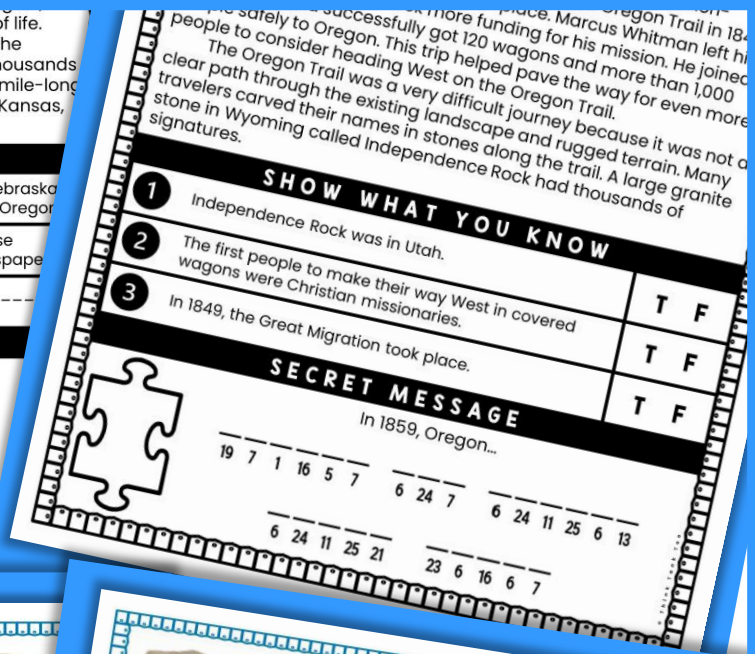
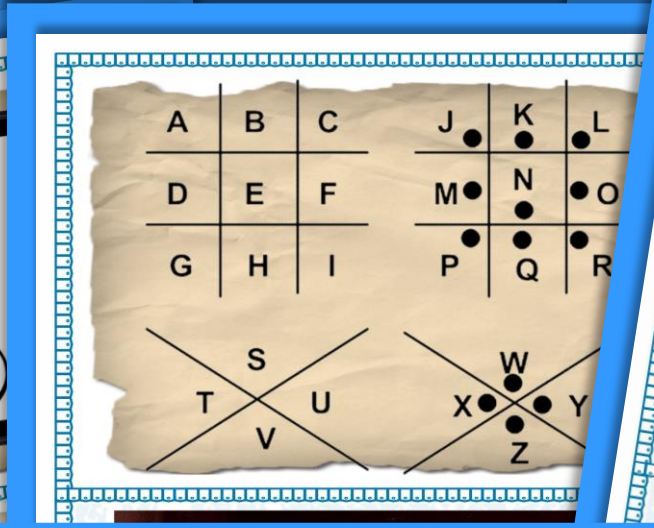
OREGON TRAIL ESCAPE ROOM

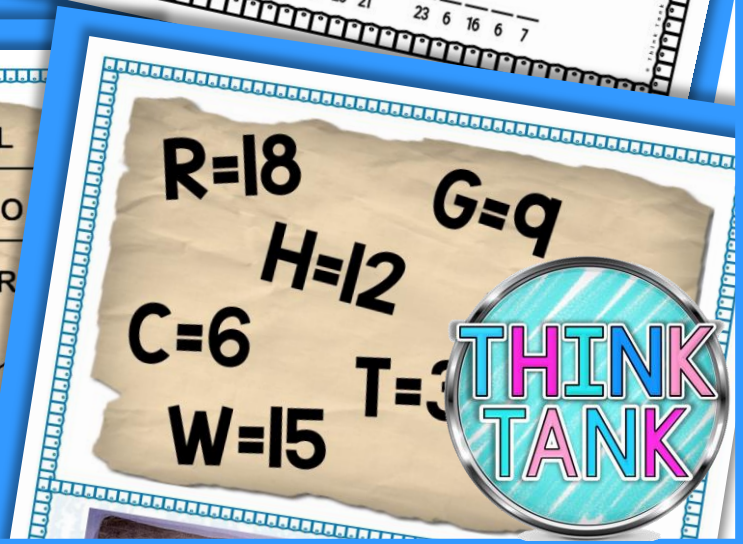








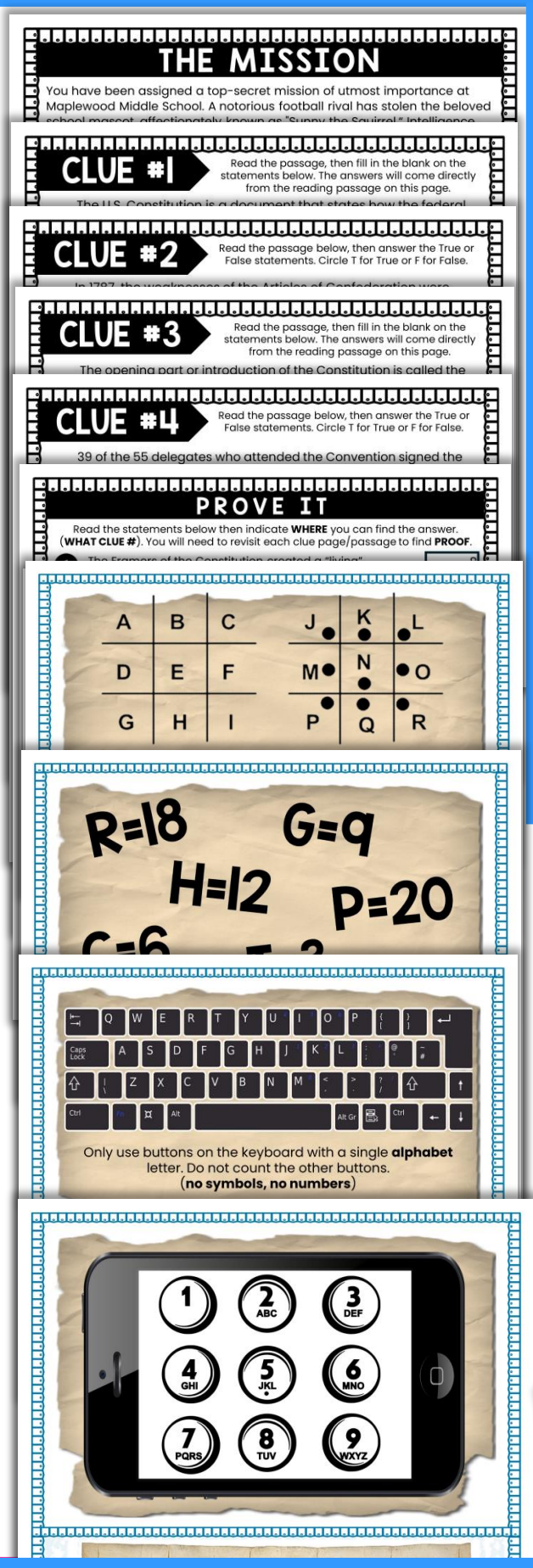


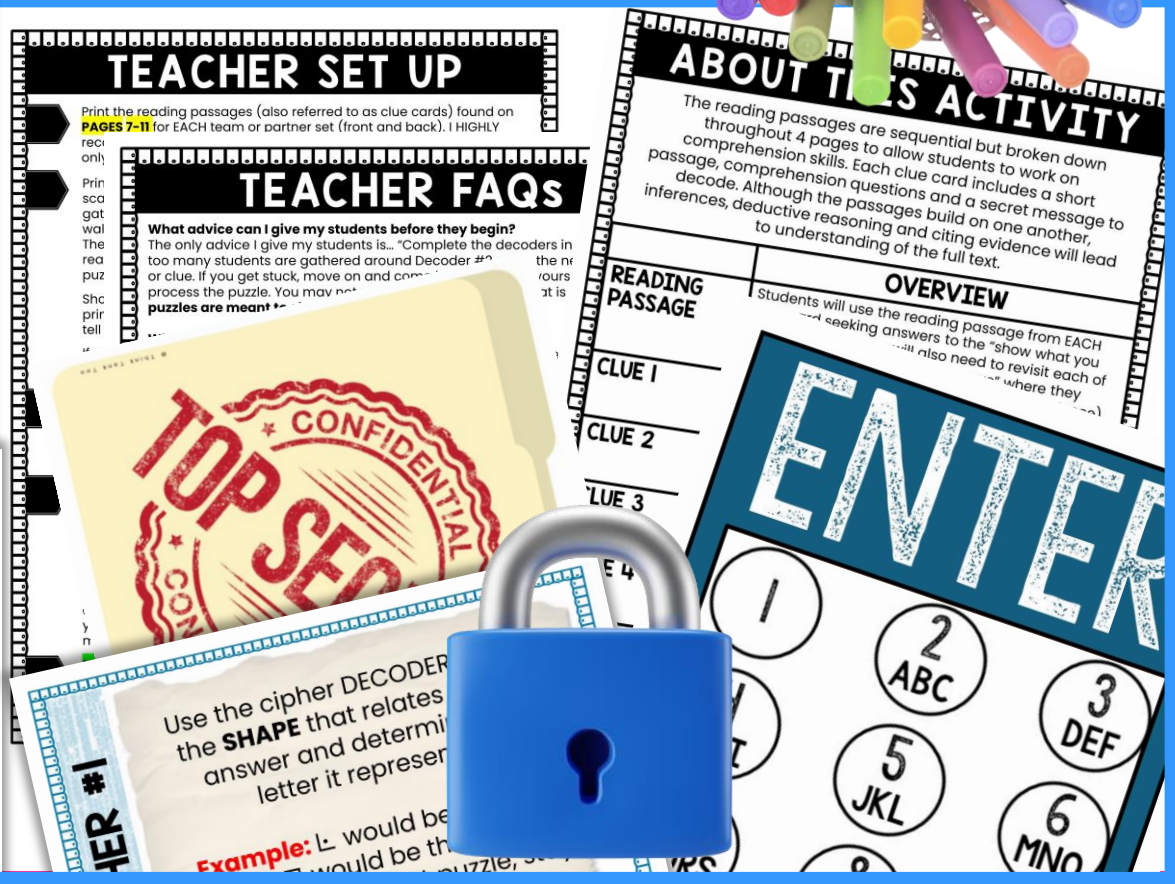


WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- 4 SHORT READING PASSAGES
- 4 PUZZLE DECODERS (UNLABELED)
- 4 PUZZLE DECODERS (LABELED)
- 18 COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS
- TEACHER SET UP
- STUDENT DIRECTIONS
- HINT CARDS
- FAQS
- ANSWER KEY
- PROP SIGNS



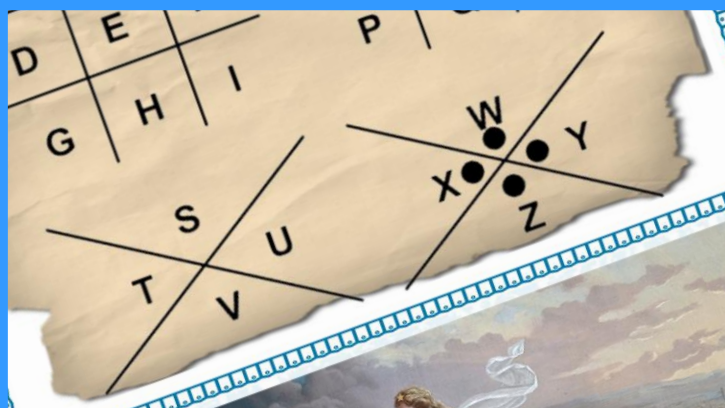




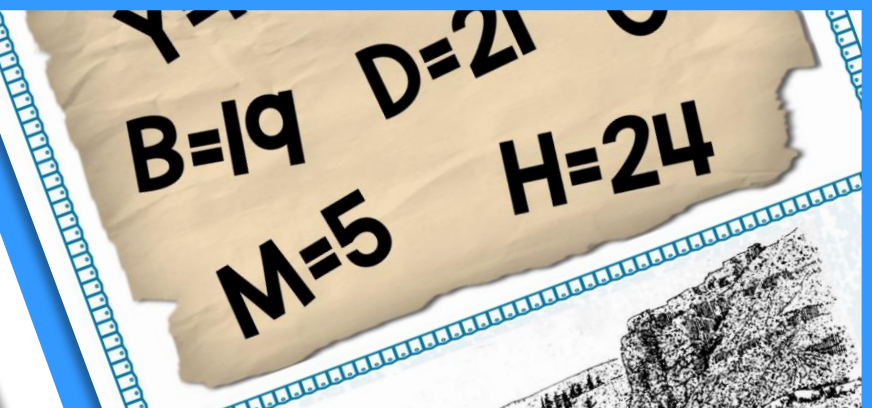
4 CLUE CARDS


CLUE #2
Read the passage below, then
False statements. Circle T for True
The first people to make their way West in covered wagons were
Christian missionaries wanting to spread their faith to Native
Americans. Lewis and Clark had proved through their expedition
(1804-1806) with the Corps of Discovery that people could make it
from Missouri to the Pacific Ocean. Those first missionaries, M
Whitman and his wife, pro
whole lives and families
missionary settler to c
In 1843, the Great
new home in Ore
wagon train an
people safely t
people to con
The Ore
clear path th
travelers c
stone in W
signature
Independen
The first people to make th
wagons were Christian missionaries.
In 1849, the Great Migration took place.
SECRET MESSAGE
In 1859, Oregon...
19 7 1 16 5 7
6 24 7
6 24 11 25
6 24 11 25 21
23 6 16 6 7
CLUE #1
Read the passage, then
statements below. The answers
from the reading passage on this
In 1845, a writer named John O'Sullivan first used the phrase
'Manifest Destiny' in a newspaper. He used the phrase to encourage
people to move west. He believed it was the right of the American
people to occupy the whole continent of North America. The idea
behind Manifest Destiny was that Americans should spread "from sea
to shining sea."
Before the Oregon Trail, Indigenous groups had already been
living on the land for thousands
Trail is often one-sided. The re
everyone. The arrival of settl
groups was devastating. Th
burned, they were forc
culture. English expan
The Oregon Trai
settlement of the A
of pioneers made
Oregon Trail. The
Nebraska, Colora
The trail
Colorad
In 1845, a writer
The real Oregon Trail wasn't a
story for everyone.
SECRET MESSAGE
Space was extremely limited...
CLUE #3
art of the struggle
ey that had to be e
rail left several thing
ypes of weather, how
he needs of their fam
ounds of dry groceries
heant they needed to p
unt for food along the
pounds of food to surviv
Many people sold a
could into their covered
wagons heading west in
Trains were good becau
protection along the trai
unhappy with the pionee
usually consisted of 20-
In 1847, a group of M
North Platte River for a p
SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW
The Wagon Trains usually consisted of _____ wagons
and families.
A four-person family needed about _____ pounds of
food to survive the trip.
Part of the struggle of the Oregon Trail was the _____
month journey that had to be endured.
SECRET MESSAGE
Each day, the wagons usually traveled...
2-1 3-5 1-9 1-7 1-5
2-4 1-5 1-3 1-3 3-6
1-3 2-2
SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW
Fort Laramie in Colorado gave the pioneers the
opportunity to refill their food and supplies.
Historians estimate that 80% of all deaths along the
Oregon Trail were the result of disease.
Since the wagons weighed up to 2,000 pounds,
many settlers walked alongside their wagons.
SECRET MESSAGE
Chimney Rock was designated a national histor
66 444 66 33 8 33 33
333 444 333 8 999
7777 444 99

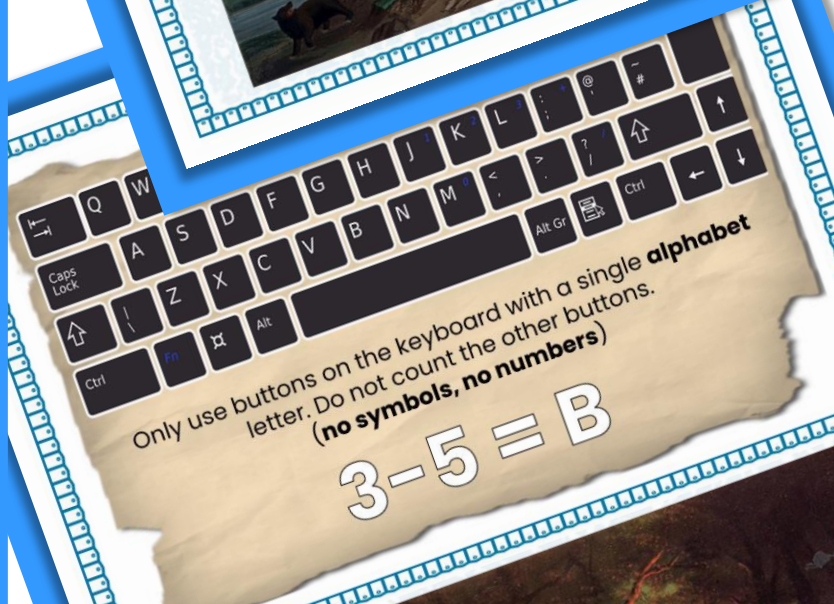
4 DECODERS


D
E
G
H
I
P
W
X
Y
Z
S
T
U
V




B=19
D=21
M=5
H=24



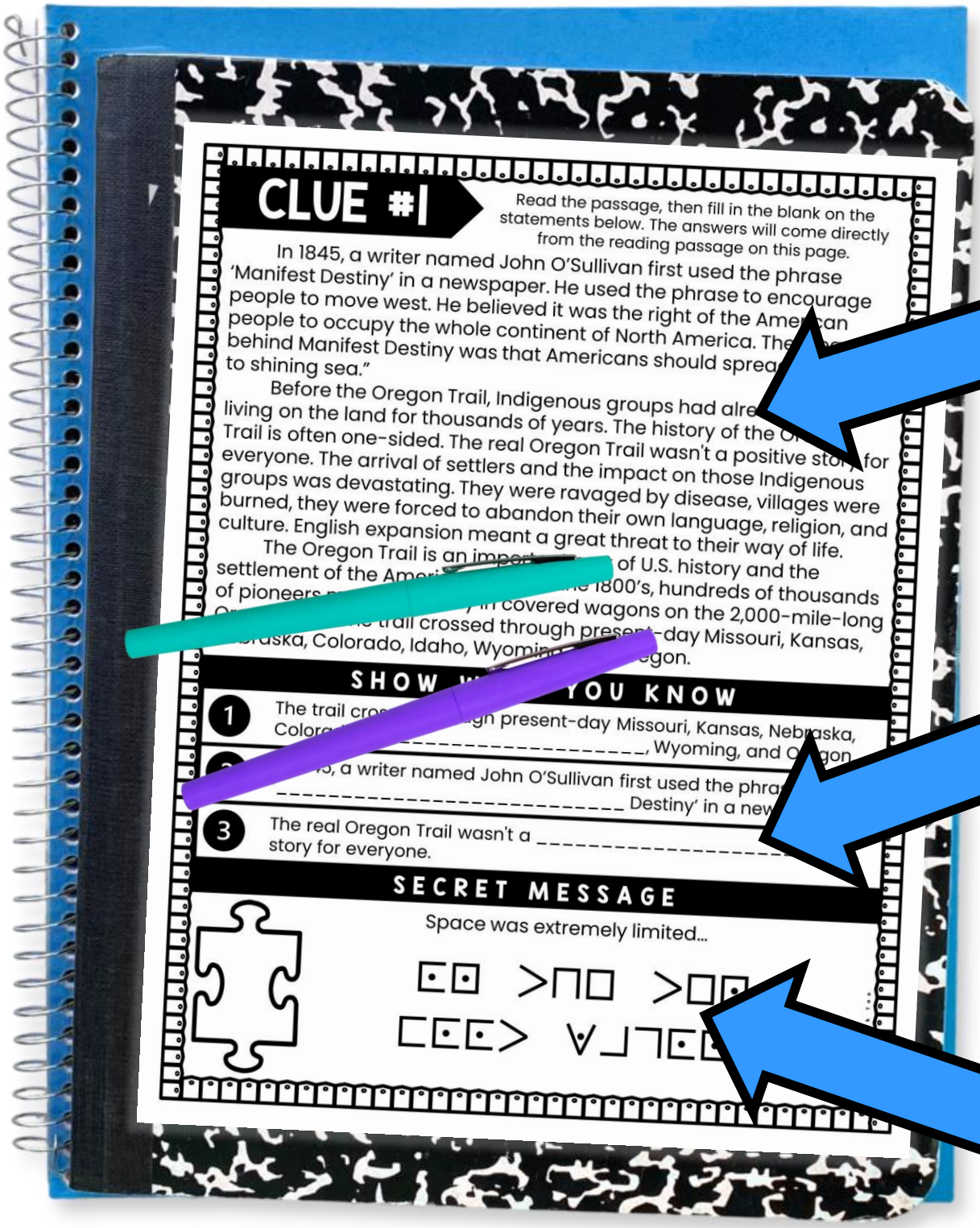

Only use buttons on the keyboard with a single alphabet letter. Do not count the other buttons.
(no symbols, no numbers)
3-5 = B


4 GHI
5 JKL
6 MNO
7 PQRS
8 TUV
9 WXYZ





READ & THINK



READ THE PASSAGE

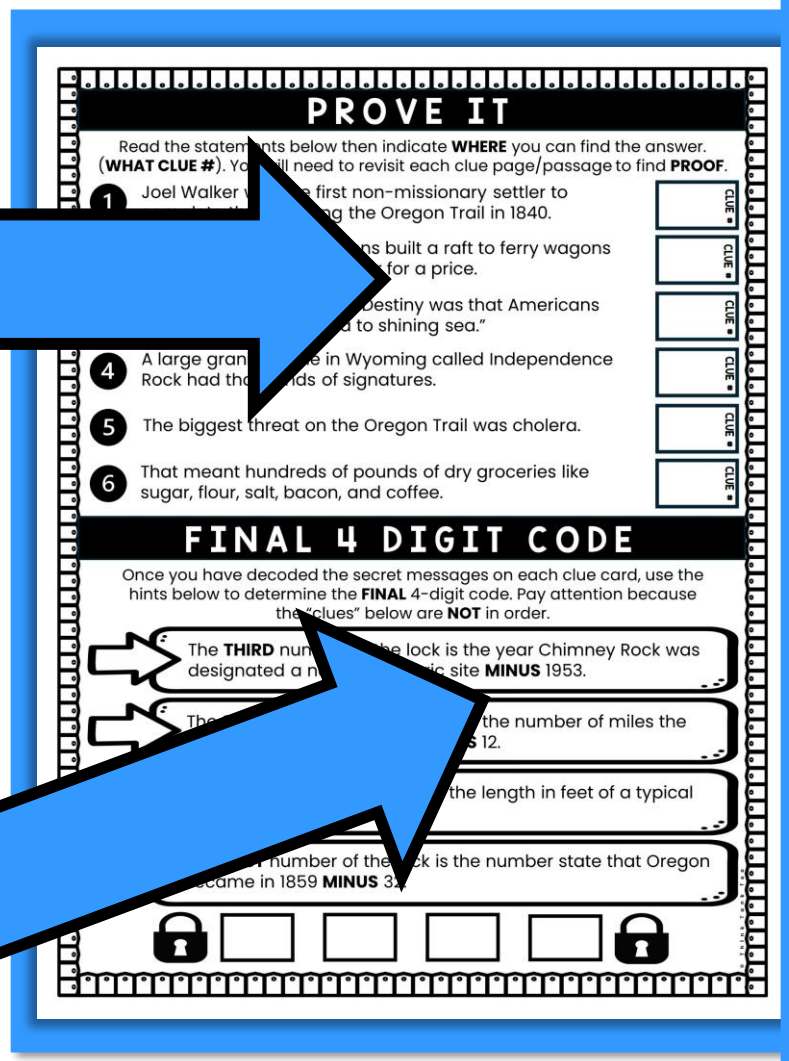
SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

DECODE THE MESSAGE

FINAL CODE

CITING TEXT EVIDENCE

Students will read the final code statements then PROVE WHERE they found the answer (CLUE #). This will ensure that students read and revisit the reading passages multiple times seeking text evidence.



CRITICAL THINKING

Students will use critical thinking skills to decode the secret messages. They will then use the information revealed in the message to determine the final 4-digit code.



HOW IT WORKS







ENGAGING READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE!

1. There are 4 clue cards and 4 puzzle decoders. Each clue card includes a short reading passage, questions to check for understanding, and a secret message to decode.

2. Students will work in pairs (or individually) and race to complete all 4 clue cards. A friendly competition always increases engagement. As students progress through the escape room, they will earn "clues" to determine the final 4-digit code. The final code is also a puzzle!



PRINT & GO



ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

The reading passages are sequential but broken down throughout 4 pages to allow students to work on comprehension skills. Each clue card includes a short passage, comprehension questions and a secret message to decode. Although the passages build on one another, inferences, deductive reasoning and citing evidence will lead to understanding of the full text.

	OVERVIEW
READING PASSAGE	Students will use the reading passage from EACH clue card seeking answers to the "show what you know" portion. They will also need to revisit each of the 4 clue card passages to "prove" where they found the answer for the final code (text evidence)
CLUE 1	Students will read the passage, answer 3 fill in the blank questions, and reveal a secret message using a puzzle decoder.
CLUE 2	Students will read the passage, answer 3 True False questions, and reveal a secret message using a puzzle decoder.
CLUE 3	Students will read the passage, answer 3 fill in the blank questions, and reveal a secret message using a puzzle decoder.
CLUE 4	Students will read the passage, answer 3 True or False questions, and reveal a secret message using a puzzle decoder.
FINAL CODE	As students progress through the escape room, they will decode "clues" to determine the final 4-digit code. The final code is also a puzzle! In order to "escape" students must present correct answers for EVERY question as well as the decoded secret messages and final 4-digit code.

© Think Tank Too

BENEFITS

- ✅ PRINT & GO
- ✅ CLOSE READING
- ✅ COMPREHENSION SKILLS
- ✅ SECRET CODES
- ✅ CITING EVIDENCE
- ✅ CRITICAL THINKING
- ✅ MOVEMENT
- ✅ ACTIVE LEARNING
- ✅ CROSS-CURRICULAR
- ✅ HIGHLY ENGAGING
- ✅ NO LOCKS NEEDED
- ✅ NO ENVELOPES TO STUFF
- ✅ NO ODD SHAPES TO CUT



Everything a teacher dreams of wrapped up into one FUN and engaging activity!

USE FOR



ANTICIPATORY SETS

UNIT REVIEW

EARLY FINISHERS

STATIONS

REWARD ACTIVITY

SUB PLANS

COLLABORATION

ENRICHMENT

GALLERY WALK

