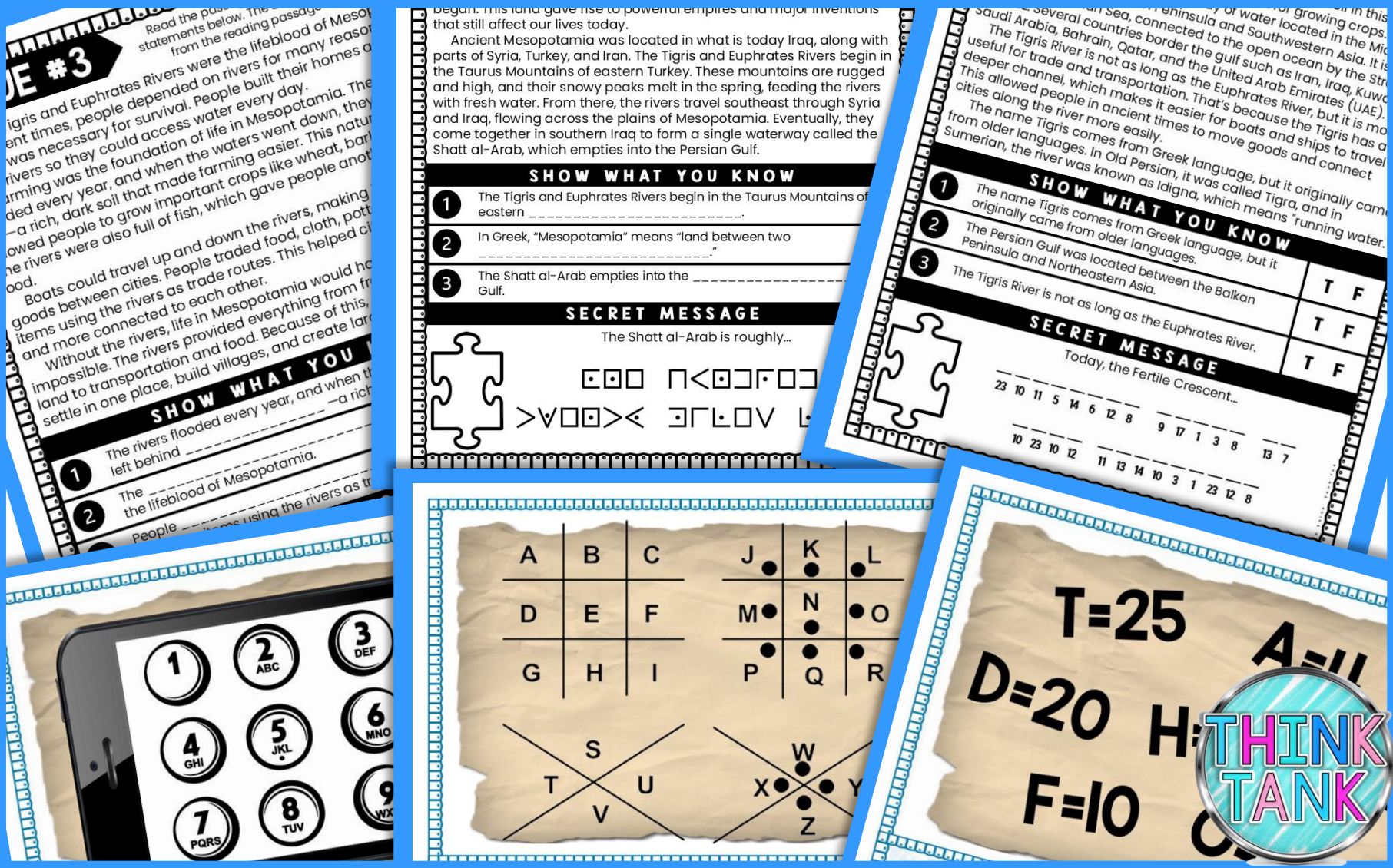
FERTILE CRESCENT

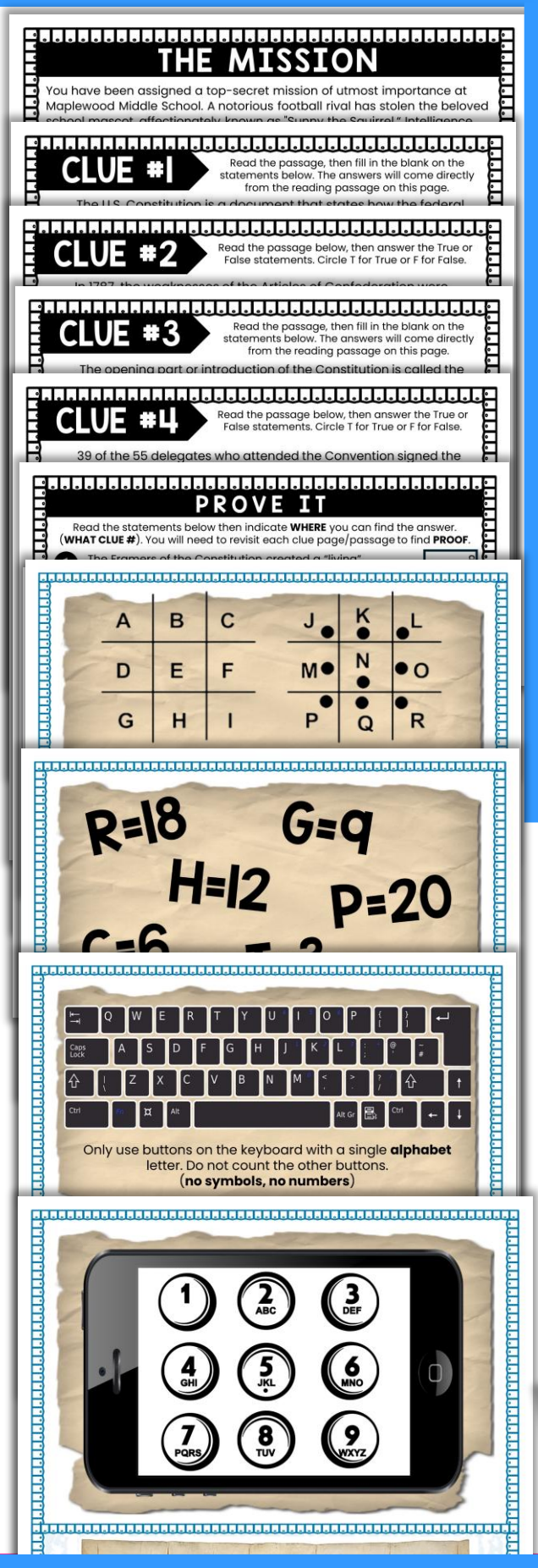
ESCAPE ROOM



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 #1
Read the passage, then fill in the blanks to complete the statements below. The answers will come from the reading passage on this page.
Thousands of years ago, long before modern countries existed, a powerful civilization rose in a region known as Mesopotamia. In Greek, "Mesopotamia" means "land between two rivers." Archaeologists have uncovered many ancient ruins in Iraq and surrounding areas, (clay tablets, ziggurats, tools, and city walls) that give us insight to how people of Mesopotamia lived. Civilization" began. This land gave writing system that still affect ou nd major inve
Ancient Meso oday Iraq, al parts of Syria, T phrates Rivers the Taurus Mou ountains are and high, and feeding the with fresh wa east throug and Iraq, flo ia. Eventually come toge waterway call Shatt al-A ulf.
1 The Tigris a eastern
2 In Greek, "Mesopotamia" mea
3 The Shatt al-Arab empties into the Gulf.
SECRET MESSAGE
The Shatt al-Arab is roughly...
CLUE #2
Read the passage below, th False statements. Circle T for True
The region was part of what historians call the Fertile Crescent, a wide arc of land with good soil and access to water. The word "crescent" describes the shape of the region when viewed on a map. While much of the surrounding land was desert, the soil in this crescent-shaped area was rich and perfect for growing crops.
The Persian Gulf is a shallow body of water located in the Middle East, between the Arabian Peninsula and Southwestern Asia. It is an arm of the Arabian Sea, connected to the Indian Ocean by the Strait of Hormuz. Several countries bor an, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar irates (UAE).
The Tigris River is not as but it is more useful for trade and tr Tigris has a deeper channel, whic ips to travel on. This allowed people nd connect cities along the rive from older langua originally came The name Tigris Sumerian, the riv and in running water."
T F
T F
T F
1 The nam es River.
2 The Persian Gulf Peninsula and Northeast
3 The Tigris River is not as long as the Eu
SECRET MESSAGE
Today, the Fertile Crescent...
23 10 11 5 14 6 12 8 9 17 1 3 8 13 7
10 23 10 12 11 13 14 10 3 1 23 12 8
CLUE #3
Tigris and Euphra ient times, people r was necessary for r rivers so they could farming was the foun ooded every year, and lt—a rich, dark soil that allowed people to grow The rivers were also full o food.
Boats could travel up goods between cities. Pe items using the rivers as and more connected to Without the rivers, life impossible. The rivers pr land to transportation a settle in one place, build
SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW
1 The rivers flooded every year, and when the waters went down, they left behind —a rich, dark soil.
2 The and Euphrates Rivers were the lifeblood of Mesopotamia.
3 People food, cloth, pottery, and other items using the rivers as trade routes.
SECRET MESSAGE
The term "Fertile Crescent" was first...
1-7 2-2 1-3 2-3 1-8 3-6
3-6 1-3 1-5 1-3 1-3 3-6
1-3 1-3 3-6
SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW
T
1 Mesopotamians invented a form of writing known as ziggurats.
2 Like the Nile, the Tigris and Euphrates flooded at the same time each year.
3 Cities like Ur, Uruk, and Lagash grew in southern Mesopotamia.
SECRET MESSAGE
Historians believe the Sumerians created
8 9 33 555 888 33
6 2 5 666 777
444 8 999 - 7777 8 2 8

4 DECODERS

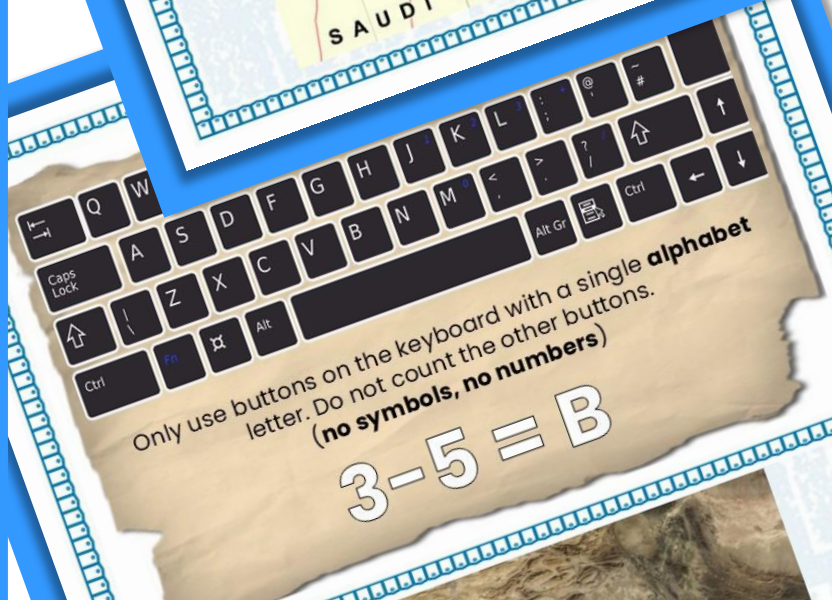




C=II F=7

R=I L=5 S=8





Only use buttons on the keyboard with a single **alphabet** letter. Do not count the other buttons.
(**no symbols, no numbers**)

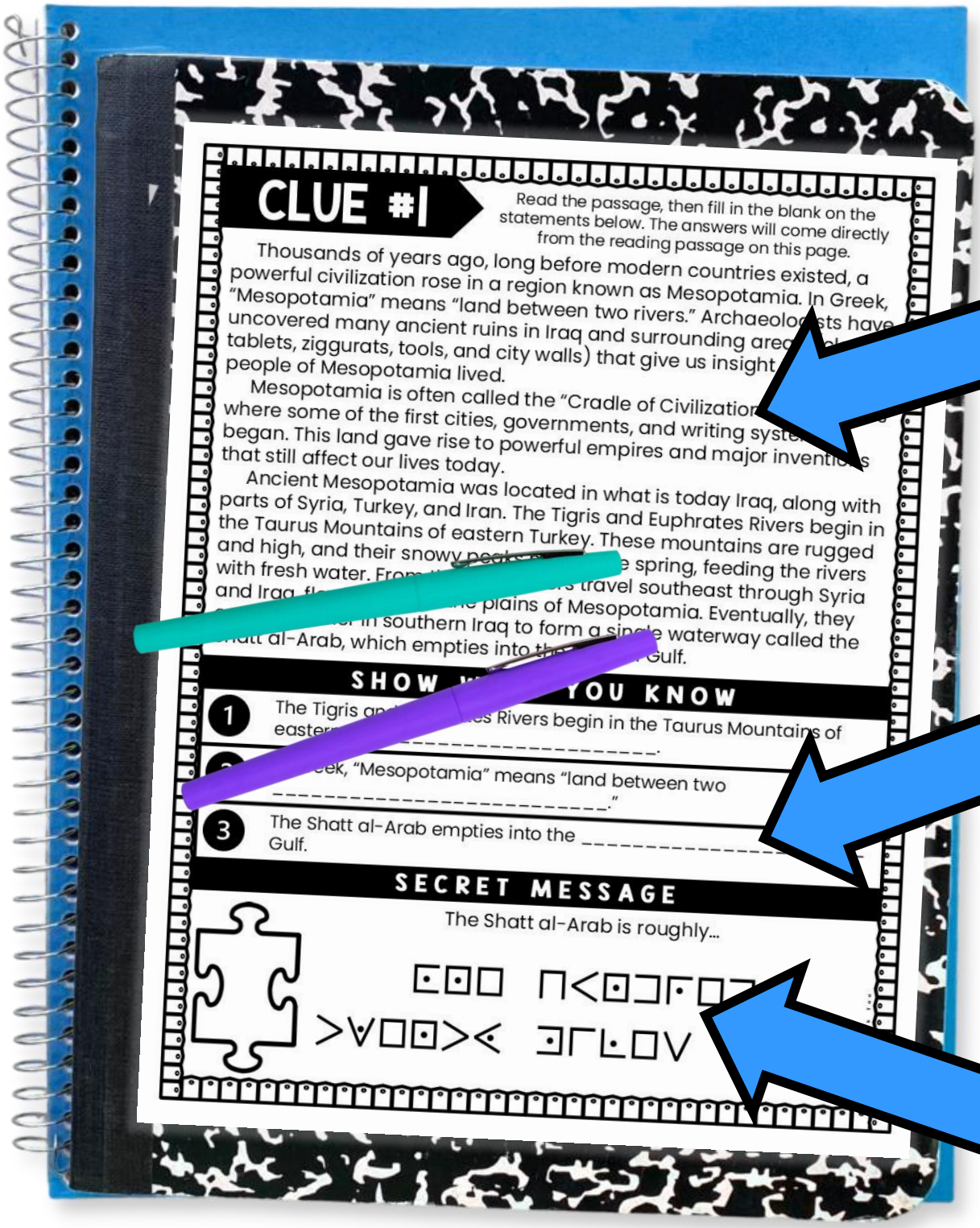
3-5 = B







READ & THINK



READ THE PASSAGE

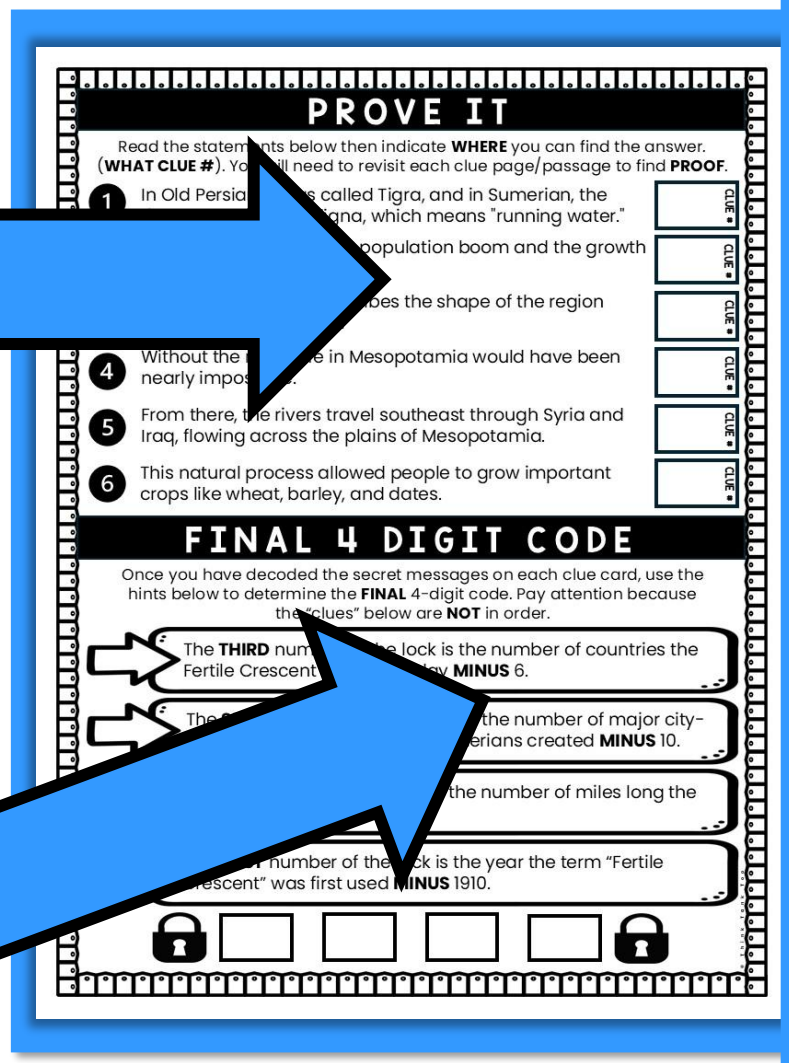
SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

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