

CHRISTMAS ESCAPE ROOM

**BUILD PHONICS
SKILLS WITH
HOLIDAY-THEMED
LOGIC PUZZLES
STUDENTS LOVE!**

PHONICS & PA

1ST & 2ND GRADE

Name: _____

Cross Off the Elves!

The gift is missing, and five elves were nearby... but only one took it! Solve each puzzle to uncover clues and cross off elves who did not take the gift. When you're done, only one elf will be left - the one who has the missing gift!

Sled	Trait
 Sarah	got gumdrop crumbs
 Max	sat in the snow
 Ben	slept in the loft
	ran past the shed
	had a red hat

Name: _____

Puzzle 2 – Word Mapping

Step 1: Look at the picture and say the word. Tap out the sounds in the word and spell the sounds in each box. Write the word in the last box.

	☆				
		☆			
		☆			
		☆			

SCROLL
to take a look inside!

ENGAGING, PRINT-AND-GO PUZZLES THAT ACTUALLY BUILD SKILLS



No prep!



Controlled, decodable text



Focused on decoding, segmenting,
phoneme counting



Easy to use, fun to complete



Targets early phonics skills &
logic reasoning

Puzzle 3 – Word Mapping

Step 1: Look at the picture and say the word. Tap out the sounds in the word and spell the sounds in each box. Write the word in the last box.

	☆				
		☆			
	☆				



The Lost Gift



Brad was a big elf with a green cap and red vest. His job was to pack gifts in the red sack. But one night, a gift was missing. "Did I drop it?" Brad said. "Or did it roll off the sled?"

He saw a small track in the snow. Not a boot. Not a sled.

"Was it a chipmunk? A fox? A kid?" he said. He ran to the shed. No gift. He checked the hill. Still no gift.

Then he saw crumbs. Pink ones. From the gumdrop cake!

"Someone came here for sweets," said Brad. "But they took a gift!"

He found a note stuck in the snow: "If you can read this, you are close. Look where cold feet go."

Brad blinked. "Cold feet?"

He raced back to the shop, but the gift was still

Cross Off the Elves!

The gift is missing, and five elves were nearby... but only one took it! Solve each puzzle to uncover clues and cross off elves who did not take the gift. When you're done, only one elf will be left - the one who has the missing gift!

Sled	Trait
	got gumdrop crumbs
	sat in the snow
	slept in the loft
	ran past the shed
	had a red hat

EASY-TO-USE, TEACHER-APPROVED, STUDENT-LOVED

Includes:

- 4 printable phonics puzzles
 - 1 Mystery Word puzzle
 - 2 Word Mapping puzzles
 - 1 Phoneme Counting puzzle
- Full-page sled tracking chart for logic elimination
- Teacher instructions and clickable table of contents
- Answer keys for all puzzles
- Printable certificate for student success
- Color and black-and-white versions included!



STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Mission Intro – Read Aloud Script

Teacher says:
"Something strange is going on. Santa's gifts has gone missing.
Your job is to read the story and solve the puzzles.
Each puzzle will help you find the gift."

Teacher Instructions

The Lost Gift: A Christmas Reading Escape Room (Grades 1 - 2)

Goal: Students read a decodable mystery story and solve 4 phonics-based puzzles to eliminate elves. Each puzzle helps them rule out an elf and their clue. When all 4 puzzles are complete, only one elf will be left, the one who took the missing gift!

What to Prepare:

- Story Page: "The Lost Gift" (print 1 per student or display for shared reading)
- Mission Intro (optional teacher-read script)
- Cross Off the Elves Sheet (student elimination chart with names + traits)
- 4 Puzzle Pages (1 per puzzle: 1 Mystery Word, 2 Word Mapping, 1 Phoneme Counting)
- Mission Complete Page
- (Optional) Printable certificate

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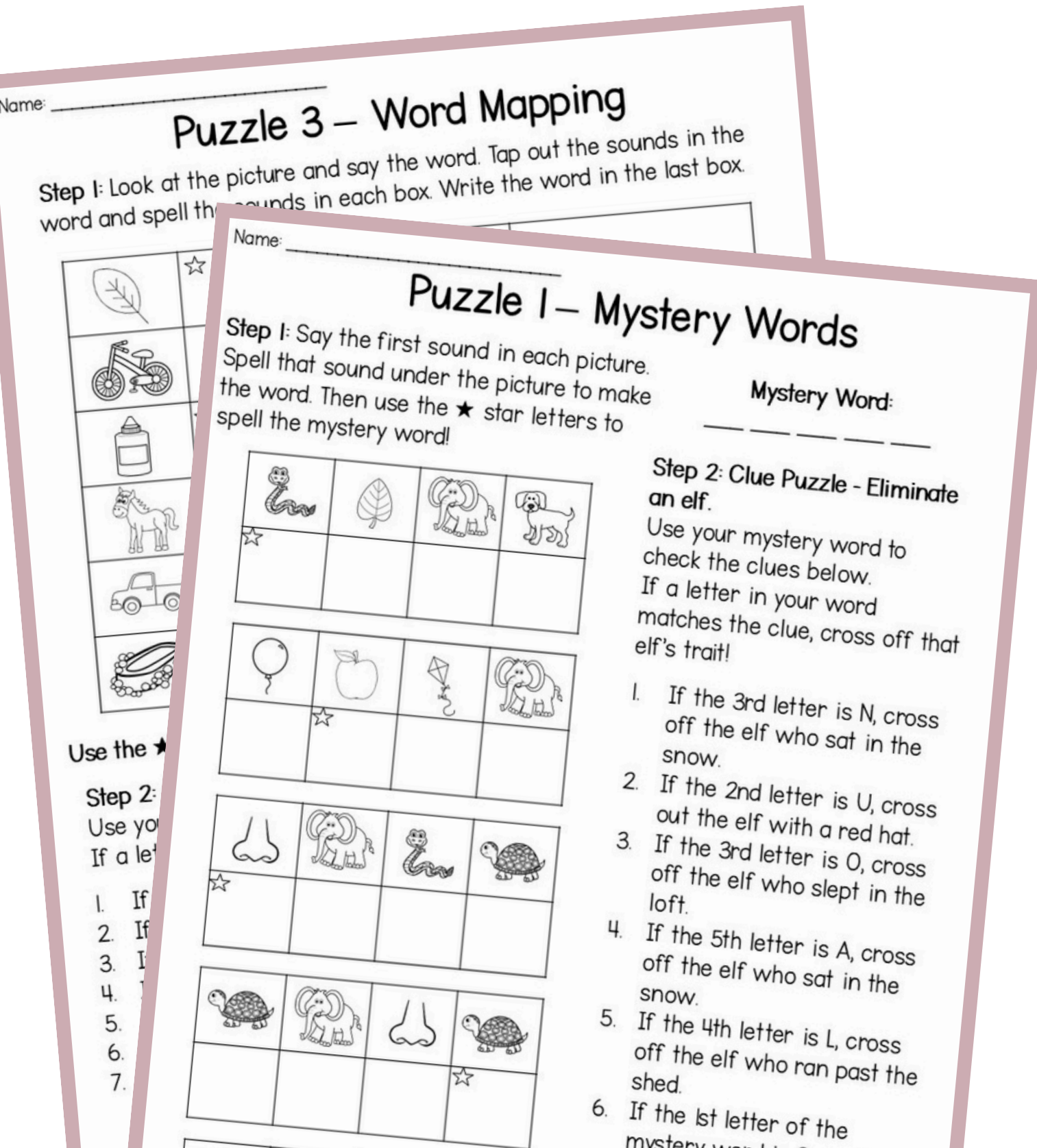
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18	Certificate
19-24	Answer keys

Includes teacher instructions and clickable table of contents

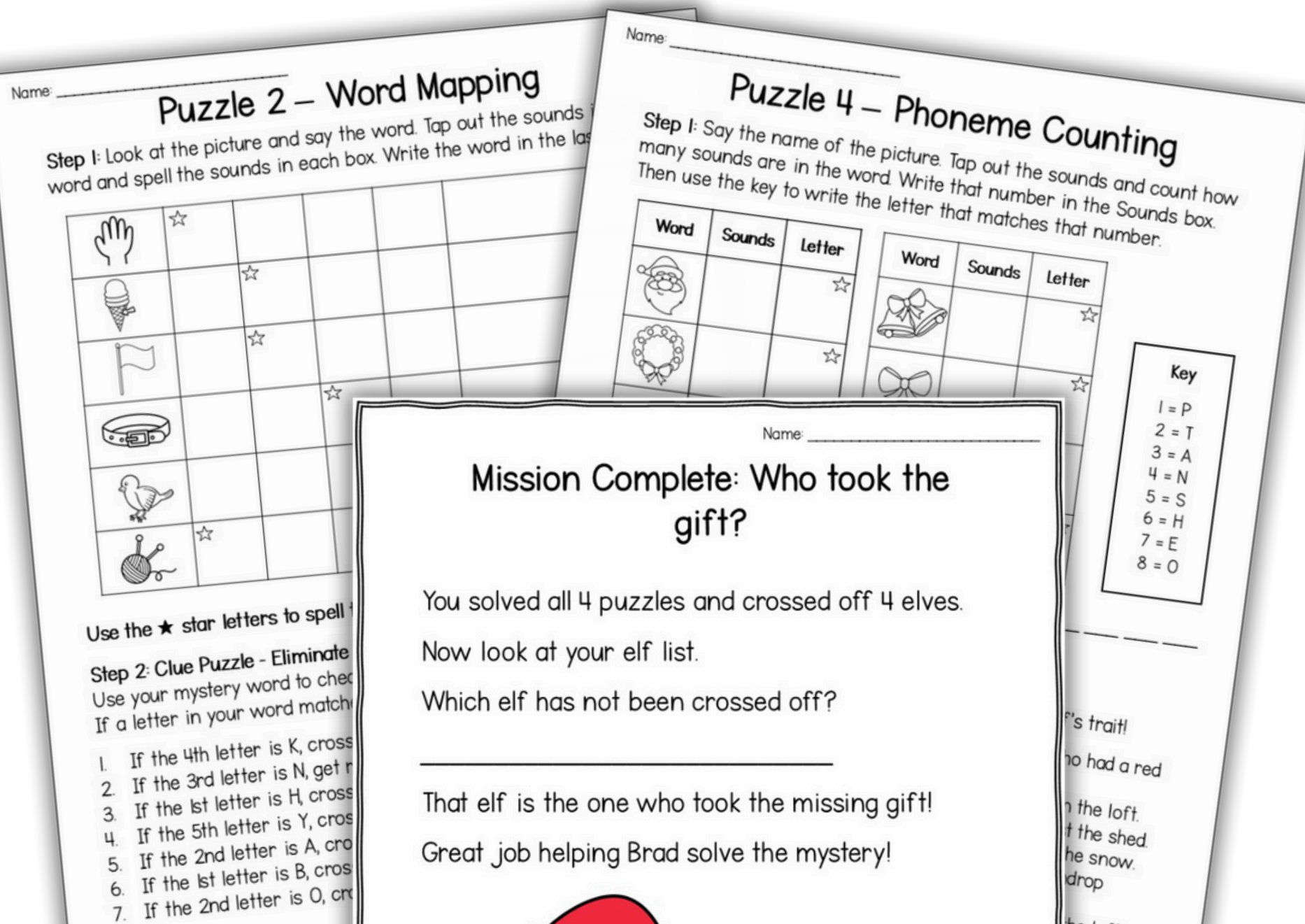
SKILLS COVERED

- Beginning sound identification
- Segmenting and spelling CVC, CVCC, CCVC, CVCe words, vowel teams
- Phoneme counting
- Decoding and encoding words
- Logic-based trait elimination
- Following multi-step directions



HOW IT WORKS

- Students read a short, decodable Christmas story
- Each puzzle focuses on decoding, segmenting, or counting phonemes
- Solving each puzzle reveals a mystery word
- The mystery word helps students eliminate false clues
- After all 4 puzzles, only 1 elf remains – the one who took the gift!



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING WITH ZERO PREP REQUIRED

★ Phonics reivew

★ Small groups

★ Sub plans

★ Classroom parties



The Lost Gift



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Brad blinked. "Cold feet?"

He raced back to the shop, but the gift was still gone.

Can you help Brad find it?

Mission Complete: Who took the gift?

Name: _____

You solved all 4 puzzles and crossed off 4 elves.

Now look at your elf list.

Which elf has not been crossed off?

That elf is the one who took the missing gift!

Great job helping Brad solve the mystery!



Puzzle 3 – Word Mapping

Name: _____

Step 1: Look at the picture and say the word. Tap out the sounds in the word and spell the sounds in each box. Write the word in the last box.

	☆				
		☆			
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	☆				
	☆				

Use the ★ star letters to spell the mystery word: _____

Step 2: Clue Puzzle - Eliminate an elf.

Use your mystery word to check the clues below.

If a letter in your word matches the clue, cross off that elf's trait!

- If the 2nd letter is I, cross out the elf who ran past the shed.
- If the 3rd letter is N, cross off the elf who sat in the snow.
- If the 6th letter is P, cross out the elf who slept in the loft.
- If the 5th letter is T, cross off the elf who ran past the shed.
- If the 1st letter is S, get rid of the elf with gumdrop crumbs.
- If the 1st letter is L, cross off the elf who ran past the shed.

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Puzzle Overview:

Puzzle Type	Focus Skills	Eliminates
Puzzle 1	Mystery Word (Santa)	Max
Puzzle 2	Word Mapping (Holly)	Gus
Puzzle 3	Word Mapping (Lights)	Liz
Puzzle 4	Phoneme Counting (Santa)	Ben

Each puzzle ends with 7 clues. Students use their mystery word to check which clues are true. If the letter in the clue is found in the mystery word, the clue is true. Once 3 clues target the same elf, that elf gets crossed off!

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