

Whodunnit

Escape Room

by

*Gypsy
Gameschooler*

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OVERVIEW

Make your kids' Logic Unit Study unforgettable with our Whodunnit Escape Room! Featuring 8 puzzle challenges that reveal a final secret code, this fun and engaging printable game will be a huge hit for kids ages 8 and up. Whether you're planning a party for your debate team, a co-op game day, a sleepover, or just need some rainy-day activities for family game night, this whodunnit game is perfect for you.

Looking for an escape room experience at home without all the fuss? Look no further! Our printable escape room is perfect for you. With no complicated shapes to cut out, and no folding or taping required, our low-prep escape room allows you to experience the thrill of the escape room right away.

Our escape room game is designed to be easy to set up and play, with no props or complicated instructions required. Kids can complete the puzzles individually or in small groups, making it a great activity for classrooms, youth groups, or team-building exercises. With our escape room kit, you'll have everything you need to create an exciting adventure for your little ones from the comfort of your own home.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE INSTANT DOWNLOAD?

PDF game guide (8.5 x 11)

8 puzzle challenges

Recording sheet

Set up instructions

Hint cards

Frequently asked questions

Answers

Gameplay: 1-3 hours

Ages: 8+

Number of players: As many as you want!

DIRECTIONS



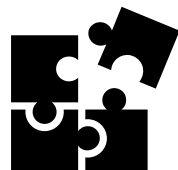
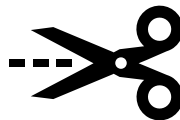
You will need to print page 11 for EVERY person or team playing the game. This is the answer recording sheet for the individual puzzles.

Print pages 7-10 for each player, group, or team. Kids WILL need to write on the puzzles in order to determine their answers. Save paper by partnering kids up. Some of the puzzles cannot be done visually, so each kid or team will need their own “set” printed.



Preview the puzzles and answers just in case you need to offer help or guidance. The kids MIGHT struggle the first time they see the puzzles...that’s OK, that’s the goal, it is after all an escape room! Let them think it out for a bit before you help them.

Once all 8 puzzles and answer recording sheets have been printed, read the “mission” out loud on page 6 and review the directions. Next, let the fun begin! Let kids know that they can complete the puzzles in **ANY order**. Just make sure they record their answers in the correct area.



PRINTING THE GAME

Make sure you **download the file to your computer FIRST**, then **print**. Sometimes your computer opens the PDF in the default web browser (which makes black boxes appear around images when you print). It happens when trying to print from the preview URL when it opens in a new tab. Make sure you are using the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader (FREE) – rather than a preview application on Macs or web browsers. Grab Adobe here: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

F.A.Q.

How long does this activity take to complete?

It really depends on a lot of things. Estimated completion time is 1-3 hours but it's based on the kids' puzzle skills, group size, and age. We recommend ages 8+.

How many kids can play at once?

Kids can play individually, with friends or siblings, or in large groups. There really is no limit to the number of players.

What if the kids get stuck on one of the puzzles?

First off, let them think for a bit! This is where critical thinking skills come in. If they get stuck, you can give them a small hint to guide them. It is advised that you preview the puzzles first, so you understand how to complete them.

Where do kids start?

Kids can start on any puzzles and complete the puzzles in ANY order!

How do you know if their answers are correct?

There is an answer key provided in the PDF.

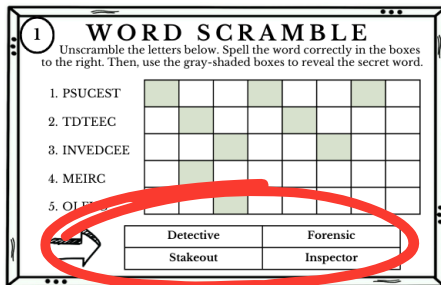
How do I set up the activity?

Just print, cut in half, and play! Everything you need is included in your download. You don't need locks, envelopes, or special equipment. You can hang or hide the puzzles or just spread them out on the kitchen table.

Do I have to print out the game materials for every kid?

Yes and no. Each player or "team" will need their own "set" of puzzles so that they can write on the pages.

DIRECTIONS



There are 8 puzzles to solve in order to determine the 4-digit code to escape. The bottom of each puzzle will give you a “secret word” based on your puzzle answers. Write the secret word on your answer sheet for each puzzle.

Once all secret words have been recorded on your answer sheet, use the decoder to determine what NUMBER each letter is represented by based on the gray-shaded boxes. The final 4-digit code will be FOUR numbers in the order in which they appear on your answer sheet.

SECRET MISSION

You wake up to find your pet lizard, Spike, missing from his terrarium. Panic sets in as you search your room, but there’s no sign of him. As the best detective in the neighborhood, you know it’s time to put your skills to the test. Grabbing your trusty magnifying glass, you spot tiny, strange tracks leading away from Spike’s tank. “These aren’t lizard tracks,” you think, puzzled. The tracks are a series of tiny dots and slashes, too regular to be random. You follow the tracks through the hallway, where they make a sharp turn into the living room. Suddenly, you notice something under the sofa. It’s a piece of Spike’s shed skin, but why would it be here?

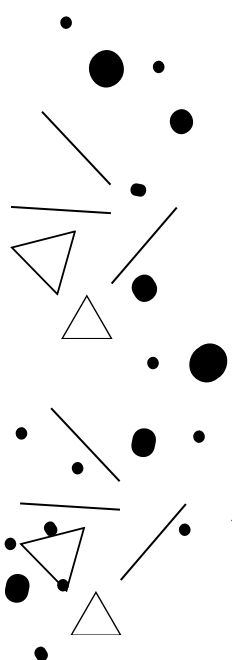


Determined, you crawl on your hands and knees, examining every inch of the floor. The tracks continue, leading out the back door. Your mind races with possibilities. Did Spike escape on his own, or did someone take him?

Outside, the tracks grow faint, but you spot a pattern in the dirt - triangular imprints mixed with the dots and slashes.

“Aha!” you exclaim. “This must be the clue!”

You turn to follow the trail, heart pounding with excitement and determination. You’re close to solving the mystery of the missing lizard.



1

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters below. Spell the word correctly in the boxes to the right. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the secret word.

1. PSUCEST

2. TDTEEC

3. INVEDCEE

4. MEIRC

5. OLEVG



Detective	Forensic
Stakeout	Inspector

2

POLYBIUS SQUARE

Use the numbers to determine what letter each combination represents.

If the box is blank, determine what letter is missing. HINT:  then 

You first have to use the grid on the left to decipher the clues below. You will end up with one answer from the words at the bottom.

	1	2	3	4	5
1	E	B		A	C
2		F	K	G	I/J
3	L	P	M	O	
4	S		R	U	Q
5	X	Z	V		W

The answer 1 2, 4 1, 1 4 4 1, 2 4
1 3, 1 1, 4 1, 1 4, 2 4 1 4, 5 2, 1 5
1 3, 1 1, 2 4, 2 4, 1 1, 3 4, 1 4.

Eliminate 5 5, 4 3, 3 4, 3 1, 1 4
1 1, 5 3, 3 1, 5 2, 5 3, 4 2 5 5, 5 2, 2 4, 1 2
1 1.

The answer 5 1, 4 3, 5 3, 2 4, 4 1, 5 2, 5 3, 1 4
2 4, 1 2, 1 1 1 3, 1 1, 2 4, 2 4, 1 1, 3 4 1 2.



Lead	Cipher	Gumshoe
Secret	Bugging	Decode

3

POLYBIUS SQUARE

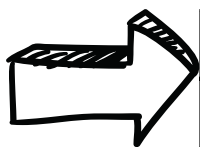
Use the numbers to determine what letter each combination represents. If the box is blank, determine what letter is missing. HINT:  then 
You first have to use the grid on the left to decipher the clues below. You will end up with one answer from the words at the bottom.

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	C		B	D
2	K	F	I/J		H
3		O	L	P	N
4	U	T	R	Q	
5	X		Z	Y	V

Eliminate 2 5, 2 3, 3 4, 5 1, 5 4
2 5, 3 2, 2 4, 5 2 1 1, 5 3 3 2.

The answer 5 2, 1 1, 5 4
2 2, 3 2, 5 5, 3 1 3 3, 3 1, 2 4, 2 4, 3 1, 3 4, 5 4.

The answer 3 1, 5 3, 5 1, 5 4
2 5, 3 2, 2 4, 5 2 1 1 2 4.



Puzzle	Hunch	Probe
Agent	Inspect	Witness

4

ATBASH ALPHABET

Use the decoder below to determine the clues.

A=Z	D=W	G=T	J=Q	M=N	P=K	S=H	V=E	Y=B
B=Y	E=V	H=S	K=P	N=M	Q=J	T=G	W=D	Z=A
C=X	F=U	I=R	L=O	O=L	R=I	U=F	X=C	

Gsv hvxivg dliw sah zg ovzhg vrtsg ovggvih.

Vornrmzgv dliwh gszg hgzig drgs X.

Tsv zmhdvi xlmgzrmh zm N.



Counterfeit	Investigate	Examination
Magnify	Witness	Criminalist

5

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters below. Spell the word correctly in the boxes to the right. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the secret word.

1. QRIEIUN

2. CDYOE

3. YIEFRV

4. ACSERH

5. GADEB



Undercover	Prosecutor
Criminalist	Detective

6

REBUS PUZZLES

Use the images to determine the word. Spell them correctly in the boxes below. Then, unscramble the letters in the gray-shaded boxes.

L=D + E + -V	-S + N=S + K

-EE +	-B



Scanner	Polygraph
Stakeout	Evidence

7

ATBASH ALPHABET

Use the decoder below to determine the clues.

A=Z	D=W	G=T	J=Q	M=N	P=K	S=H	V=E	Y=B
B=Y	E=V	H=S	K=P	N=M	Q=J	T=G	W=D	Z=A
C=X	F=U	I=R	L=O	O=L	R=I	U=F	X=C	

Gsv hvxivg dliw rh ovhh gszm vovevm ovggvih.

Ivnlev dliwh gszg vmw drgs I.

Gsv zmhdvi isbnvh drgs "urm."



Mystify	Questioning	Fingerprint
Examine	Wiretapping	Prosecutor

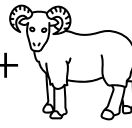
8

REBUS PUZZLE

Use the images to determine the word. Spell them correctly in the boxes below. Then, unscramble the letters in the gray-shaded boxes.

G +  E=U+D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E+  R=X+  -RA+E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 H=P+  -SE+L

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 -AP+  P=E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



Legal	Enigma
Riddle	Sleuth

SECRET WORD RECORDER



Place your final answers to each puzzle in the boxes below. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the 4-digit combination. The 4-digit combination will be revealed in the same order in which they appear on your answer grid.

1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											

Eliminate all odd numbers.

Eliminate the first and last number.

Remove the middle remaining number.

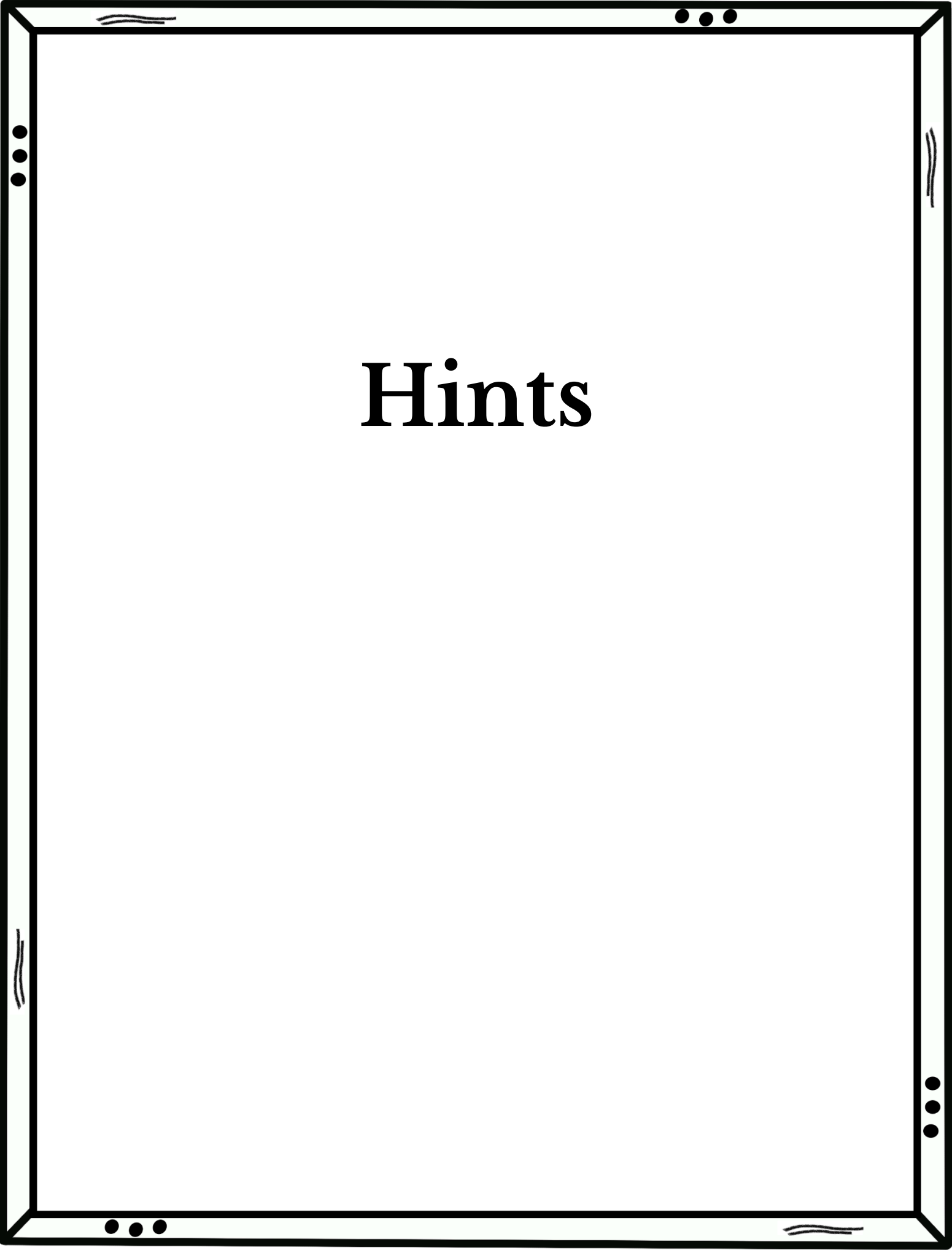
A=4	J=4	S=4
B=6	K=6	T=6
C=3	L=3	U=3
D=1	M=1	V=1
E=2	N=2	W=2
F=9	O=9	X=9
G=7	P=7	Y=7
H=5	Q=5	Z=5
I=8	R=8	



Scan the QR code to check your answer!

4-DIGIT CODE





Hints

REBUS

To solve a rebus, make sure to look at the word placement, size, and quantity. First, determine what the picture is. Then, follow the letter prompts eliminating, adding or replacing letters. The secret word will be one of the words at the bottom of the puzzle.



D=L

Step 1: Determine the picture. In this case it is a dove.

Step 2: Follow the letter prompts. This rebus tells us to replace the letter “D” with the letter “L”. To solve, simply put the new letters together. The answer to this rebus is LOVE.

POLYBIUS

Use the numbers to determine what letter each number combination represents. Notice the numbers are in pairs.

HINT: Go RIGHT first, then DOWN

Find where the first and second number intersect on the grid to determine the letter.

If a letter is missing on the grid, use the alphabet to determine the missing letter. Each row has 5 consecutive letters in a random order.

Example: 1 3 = L
Go right 1 and down 3

Example: 2 4 = T
Go right 2 and down 4

ATBASH

This is a letter replacement cipher. Use the decoder to determine what letter each given letter represents. Hint: Atbash is simply the alphabet backward. The answer will be the ONE remaining word found in the list at the bottom.

A=Z

B=Y

C=X

SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters to determine the missing word. Spell the word correctly in the boxes to the right. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the letters of the secret word. Unscramble the letters to find the secret word.

Answers

For parents/teachers only!
(no need to print)

1

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters below. Spell the word correctly in the boxes to the right. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the secret word.

1. PSUCEST

2. TDTEEC

3. INVEDCEE

4. MEIRC

5. OLEVG

S	U	S	P	E	C	T	
D	E	T	E	C	T		
E	V	I	D	E	N	C	E
C	R	I	M	E			
G	L	O	V	E			

~~Detective~~~~Forensic~~~~Stakeout~~

Inspector

2

POLYBIUS SQUARE

Use the numbers to determine what letter each combination represents.

If the box is blank, determine what letter is missing. HINT → then ↓

You first have to use the grid on the left to decipher the clues below. You will end up with one answer from the words at the bottom.

	1	2	3	4	5
1	E	B	D	A	C
2	H	F	K	G	I/J
3	L	P	M	O	N
4	S	T	R	U	Q
5	X	Z	V	Y	W

The answer has at least six letters.

Eliminate words ending with E.

The answer contains the letter H.

~~Lead~~

Cipher

~~Gumshoe~~~~Secret~~~~Bugging~~~~Decode~~

3

POLYBIUS SQUARE

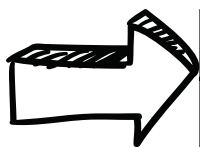
Use the numbers to determine what letter each combination represents. If the box is blank, determine what letter is missing. HINT:  then 
You first have to use the grid on the left to decipher the clues below. You will end up with one answer from the words at the bottom.

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	C	E	B	D
2	K	F	I/J	G	H
3	M	O	L	P	N
4	U	T	R	Q	S
5	X	W	Z	Y	V

Eliminate words with an I.

The answer has five letters.

The answer ends with a T.



~~Puzzle~~

~~Hunch~~

~~Probe~~

Agent

~~Inspect~~

~~Witness~~

4

ATBASH ALPHABET

Use the decoder below to determine the clues.

A=Z	D=W	G=T	J=Q	M=N	P=K	S=H	V=E	Y=B
B=Y	E=V	H=S	K=P	N=M	Q=J	T=G	W=D	Z=A
C=X	F=U	I=R	L=O	O=L	R=I	U=F	X=C	

The secret word has at least eight letters.

Eliminate words that start with C.

The answer contains an M.



~~Counterfeit~~

~~Investigate~~

Examination

~~Magnify~~

~~Witness~~

~~Criminalist~~

5

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters below. Spell the word correctly in the boxes to the right. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the secret word.

1. QRIEIUN

2. CDYOE

3. YIEFRV

4. ACSERH

5. GADEB

I	N	Q	U	I	R	E	
D	E	C	O	Y			
V	E	R	I	F	Y		
S	E	A	R	C	H		
B	A	D	G	E			

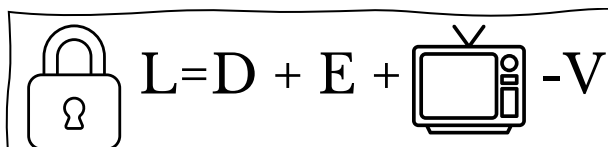


Undercover	Prosecutor
Criminalist	Detective

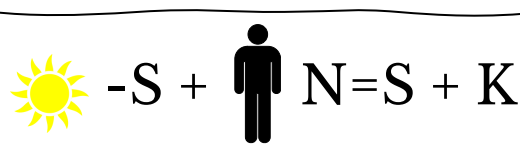
6

REBUS PUZZLES

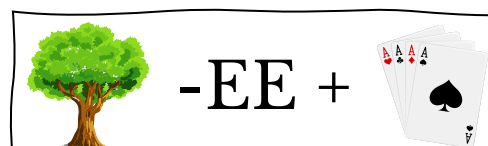
Use the images to determine the word. Spell them correctly in the boxes below. Then, unscramble the letters in the gray-shaded boxes.



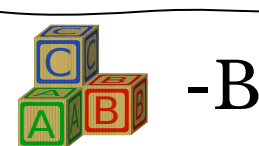
D	O	C	K	E	T		
---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--



U	N	M	A	S	K		
---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--



T	R	A	C	E	S		
---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--



L	O	C	K	S			
---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--



Scanner	Polygraph
Stakeout	Evidence

7

ATBASH ALPHABET

Use the decoder below to determine the clues.

A=Z	D=W	G=T	J=Q	M=N	P=K	S=H	V=E	Y=B
B=Y	E=V	H=S	K=P	N=M	Q=J	T=G	W=D	Z=A
C=X	F=U	I=R	L=O	O=L	R=I	U=F	X=C	

The secret word is less than eleven letters.

Remove words that end with R.

The answer rhymes with "fin."



Mystify	Questioning	Fingerprint
Examine	Wiretapping	Prosecutor

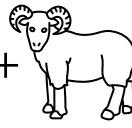
8

REBUS PUZZLE

Use the images to determine the word. Spell them correctly in the boxes below. Then, unscramble the letters in the gray-shaded boxes.

G +  E=U+D

G	U	A	R	D			
---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--

E+  R=X+  -RA+E

E	X	A	M	I	N	E	
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--

 H=P+  -SE+L

P	A	T	R	O	L		
---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--

 -AP+  P=E

C	L	U	E				
---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--



Legal	Enigma
Riddle	Sleuth

SECRET WORD RECORDER



Place your final answers to each puzzle in the boxes below. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the 4-digit combination. The 4-digit combination will be revealed in the same order in which they appear on your answer grid.

1	I	N	S	P	E	C	T	O	R		
2	C	I	P	H	E	R					
3	A	G	E	N	T						
4	E	X	A	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N
5	U	N	D	E	R	C	O	V	E	R	
6	S	T	A	K	E	O	U	T			
7	E	X	A	M	I	N	E				
8	E	N	I	G	M	A					

6 8 2 2 2 9 4 2

A=4 J=4 S=4
 B=6 K=6 T=6
 C=3 L=3 U=3
 D=1 M=1 V=1
 E=2 N=2 W=2
 F=9 O=9 X=9
 G=7 P=7 Y=7
 H=5 Q=5 Z=5
 I=8 R=8

Eliminate all odd numbers.

Eliminate the first and last number.

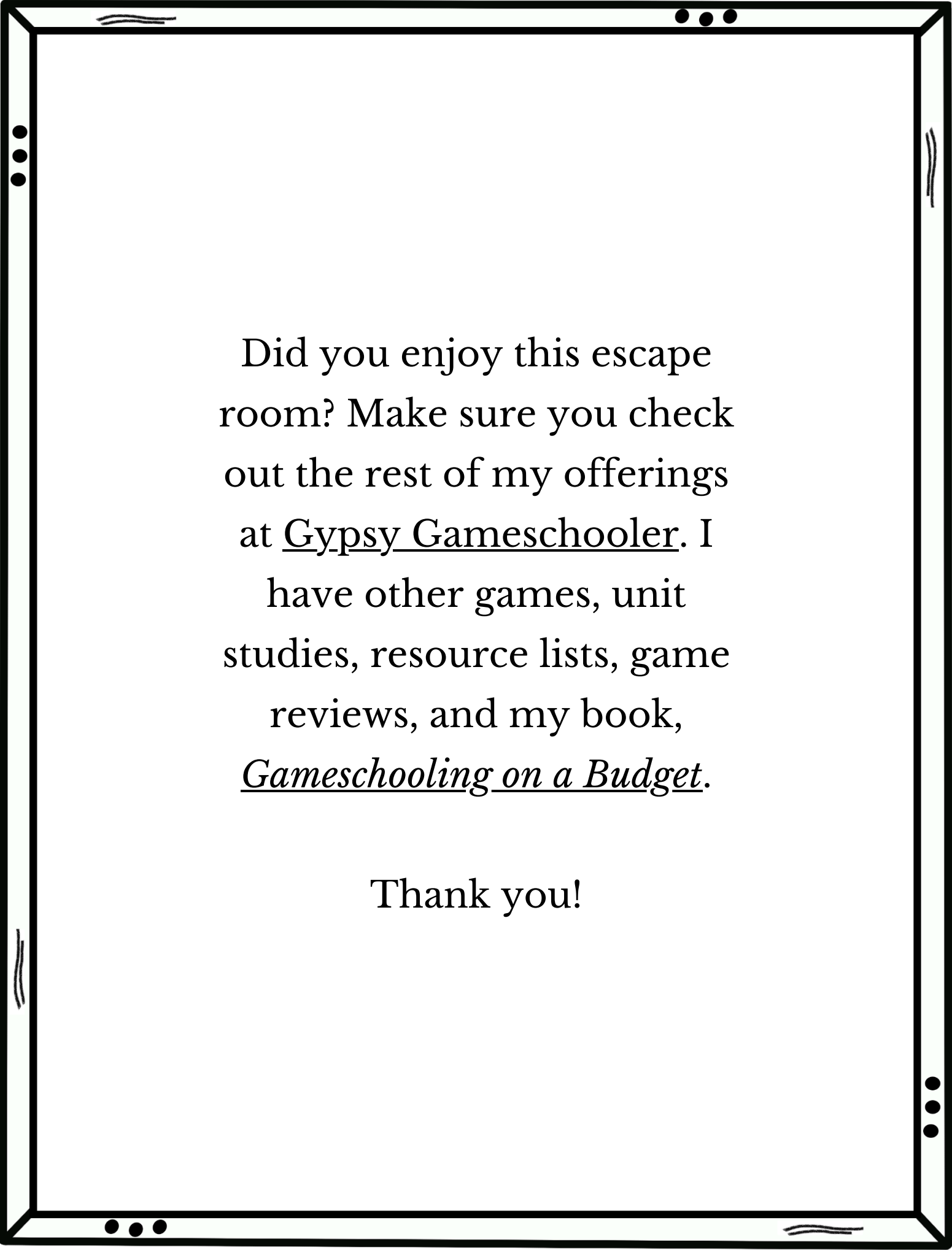
Remove the middle remaining number.



Scan the QR code to check your answer!

4-DIGIT CODE

8 2 2 4



Did you enjoy this escape room? Make sure you check out the rest of my offerings at Gypsy Gameschooler. I have other games, unit studies, resource lists, game reviews, and my book, *Gameschooling on a Budget*.

Thank you!