

Forest Animals

*Mini
Escape Room*

by

*Gypsy
Gameschooler*

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OVERVIEW

Make your kids' Forest Unit Study unforgettable with our Forest Animals Mini Escape Room! Featuring 4 puzzle challenges that reveal a final secret code, this fun and engaging printable game will be a huge hit for kids ages 7 and up. Whether you're planning a party for your child, a co-op game day, a sleepover, or just need some rainy-day activities for family game night, this Forest animals 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)

4 puzzle challenges

Recording sheet

Set up instructions

Hint cards

Frequently asked questions

Answers

Gameplay: 30-60 minutes

Ages: 7+

Number of players: As many as you want!

DIRECTIONS



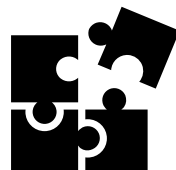
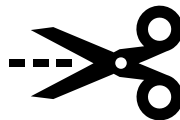
You will need to print page 9 for EVERY person or team playing the game. This is the answer recording sheet for the individual puzzles.

Print pages 7-8 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 4 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 30-60 minutes but it's based on the kids' puzzle skills, group size, and age. We recommend ages 7+.

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. Each player or "team" will need their own set of puzzles so that they can write on the pages.

DIRECTIONS

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. IGBDNSRO
2. OCARGU
3. CRNOCAO
4. OOEYCT
5. LEK

CANADA GOOSE	GOLDEN EAGLE
GARTER SNAKE	RINGTAIL CAT

There are 4 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. If any answers have more than one word, do not include any space(s).

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

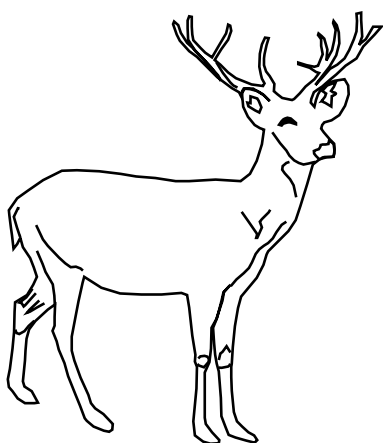
You step into the woods, sunlight streaming through the tall trees, casting playful shadows on the ground. The leaves rustle in a gentle breeze, and the air smells like pine. You bounce along the path, crunching twigs and leaves underfoot.



Deeper in the forest, vibrant flowers peek out, and a curious squirrel darts up a tree. “Hi there!” you call, waving. The squirrel twitches its nose, as if it is curious about you, too.

Following a winding trail, a butterfly flutters by, leading you further in. “Just a little further,” you think, excitement bubbling inside you. But soon, the path disappears into a tangle of underbrush.

You stop, looking around. The trees seem unfamiliar, and the forest grows quiet. Panic rises in your chest. Oh no! You’re lost! Taking a deep breath, you whisper, “Okay, think. How do I get back?”



You realize that the animals who live here can help you find your way out, but first you need to find the animals.

Complete the puzzles to find the animals and your way out of the forest.

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. IGBDNSRO

2. OCARGU

3. CRNOCAO

4. OOECYT

5. LEK



CANADA GOOSE

GOLDEN EAGLE

GARTER SNAKE

RINGTAIL CAT

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	B	E	A		C
2	H	I		K	F
3	L		P	M	O
4		R	T	Q	U
5	X	V	Z	Y	

The 3 1, 2 3, 2 2, 4 3, 3 1, 1 3 2 2, 1 4
3 1 4 3, 3 1, 4 3, 4 3, 3 1, 1 3.

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

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



DEER

SQUIRREL

CROW

SKUNK

WOLF

MOOSE

3

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 dliw szh zg ovzhg mrmv ovggvih.

Gsv zmrnzo rh z nznnzo.

Gsv dliw xlmgzrmh z D.



WOLVERINE

OPOSSUM

BLACK BEAR

PORCUPINE

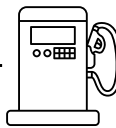
BADGER

WOODPECKER

4

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.

W +  R=S+  -FU

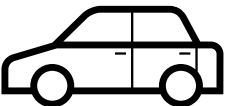
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



T=B+  -RDS+T

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



Y=B+  R=T

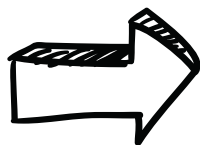
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

R+



C=E+F+ 

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



BOBWHITE

WILD BOAR

CHIPMUNK

BULL FROG

SECRET WORD RECORDER

Place your final answers to each puzzle in the boxes below. If any answers have more than one word, do not include the space(s). 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											

Eliminate all multiples of 3.

Eliminate all odd numbers.

Remove the middle remaining two numbers.



Scan the QR code to check
your answer!

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

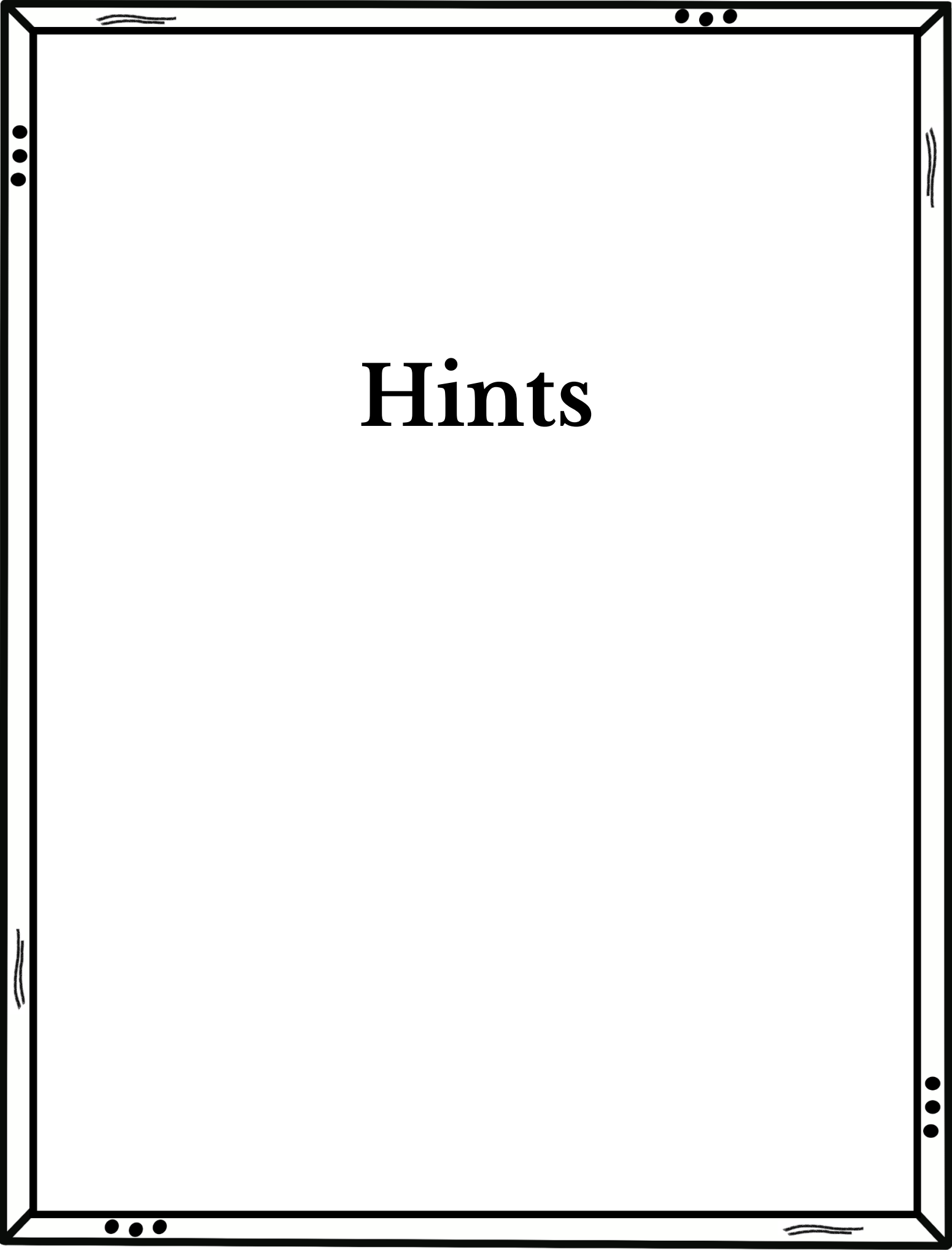
H=5 Q=5 Z=5

I=8 R=8



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 = R
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.

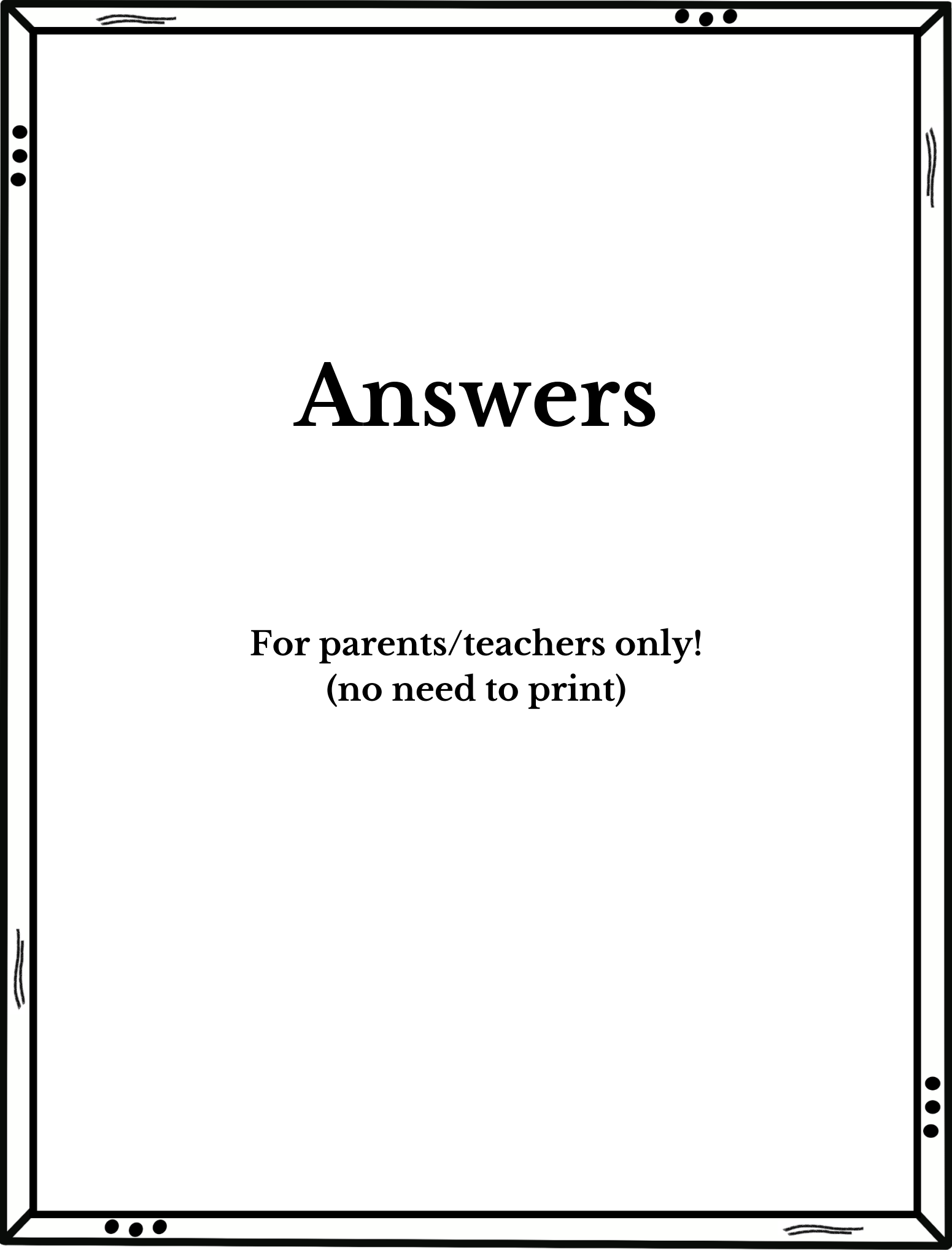
A=Z

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. IGBDNSRO

2. OCARGU

3. CRNOCAO

4. OOECYT

5. LEK

S	O	N	G	B	I	R	D
C	O	U	G	A	R		
R	A	C	C	O	O	N	
C	O	Y	O	T	E		
E	L	K					

~~CANADA GOOSE~~~~GOLDEN EAGLE~~~~GARTER SNAKE~~~~RINGTAIL CAT~~

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

The animal is a mammal.

The word contains an S.

The animal is a rodent.

~~DEER~~~~SQUIRREL~~~~CROW~~~~SKUNK~~~~WOLF~~~~MOOSE~~

3

ATBASH ALPHABET

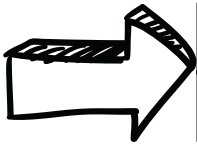
Use the decoder below to determine the clues.

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 word has at least nine letters.

The animal is a mammal.

The word contains a W.



WOLVERINE

OPOSSUM

BLACK BEAR

PORCUPINE

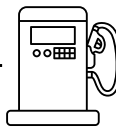
BADGER

WOODPECKER

4

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.

W +  R = S +  -FU

W E A S E L

T = B +  -RDS + T

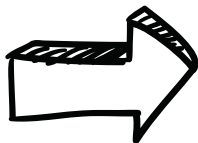
R A B B I T

Y = B +  R = T

B O B C A T

R +  C = E + F + 

R E D F O X



BOBWHITE

WILD BOAR

CHIPMUNK

BULLFROG

SECRET WORD RECORDER

Place your final answers to each puzzle in the boxes below. If any answers have more than one word, do not include the space(s). 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	G	A	R	T	E	R	S	N	A	K	E
2	S	Q	U	I	R	R	E	L			
3	W	O	L	V	E	R	I	N	E		
4	W	I	L	D	B	O	A	R			

4 2 8 8 3 8 2 6

Eliminate all multiples of 3.

Eliminate all odd numbers.

Remove the middle remaining two numbers.

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	

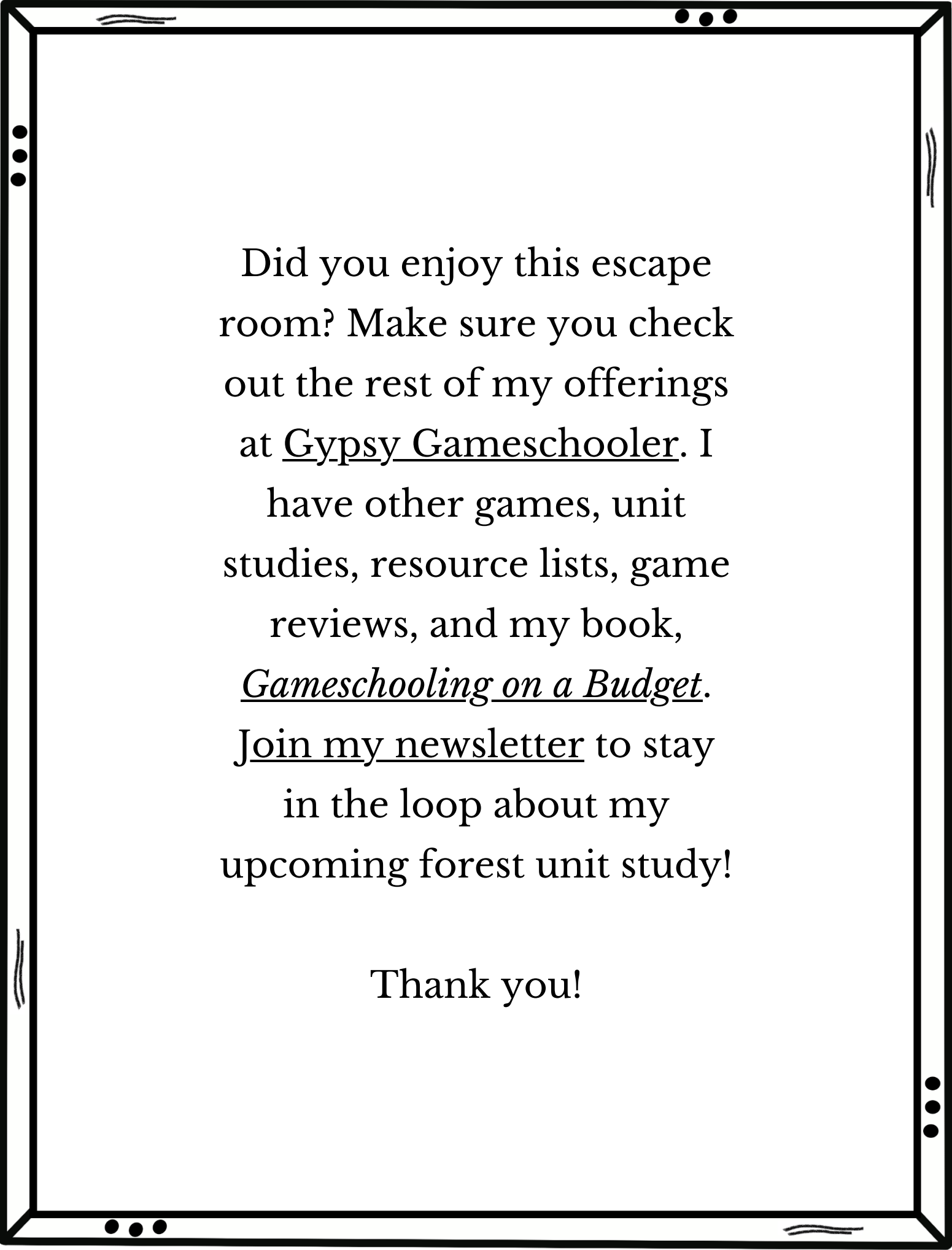


Scan the QR code to check
your answer!



4-DIGIT CODE

4 2 8 2



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*. Join my newsletter to stay in the loop about my upcoming forest unit study!

Thank you!