

Winter-Themed

Escape Room

by

*Gypsy
Gameschooler*

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OVERVIEW

Make your kids' Winter Unit Study unforgettable with our Winter-Themed Escape Room! Featuring 10 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 winter-themed 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 kids from the comfort of your own home.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE INSTANT DOWNLOAD?

PDF game guide (8.5 x 11)

10 puzzle challenges

Recording sheet

Set up instructions

Hint cards

Frequently asked questions

Answers

Gameplay: 90-120 minutes

Ages: 7+

Number of players: As many as you want!

DIRECTIONS



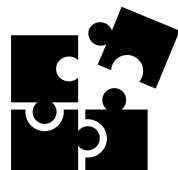
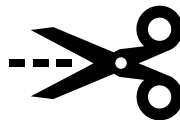
You will need to print page 12 for EVERY person or team playing the game. This is the answer recording sheet for the individual puzzles.

Print pages 7-11 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. You’ll need to print these pages single-sided.



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 10 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 90-120 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.

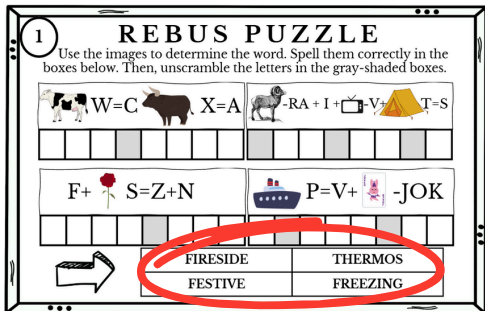
How do I set up the activity?

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



There are 10 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



everyone was laughing.

Your scout troop had been planning this mountain trip for weeks—two nights in the woods, snowshoeing, and cocoa by the fire before heading home. The weather report promised clear skies, and for most of the morning, it kept its word. You and your friends took your snowshoes out to explore. The snow sparkled, the trail was steady, and

Then the wind changed. Clouds rolled in fast, swallowing the blue sky, and within minutes, snow was falling so thick you could barely see the person in front of you. The map was useless now, and the cold bit through your gloves.

When someone shouted that they saw a cabin, you all ran for it, crunching through drifts until you reached the door—half-buried and frozen shut. Together, you pushed until it creaked open and you stumbled inside.

The air smelled of smoke and pine. There was a cold woodstove in the corner, a desk covered in old papers, and beside the door, a small metal box blinking red.

LOCKDOWN ENGAGED

ENTER 4-DIGIT CODE TO EXIT

You try a few buttons, but the screen just flashes: INCORRECT.

At least the cabin is warm—barely—but it’s clear none of you will be leaving until you figure out the code. You glance around at your friends. They’re already spreading out, searching for clues.

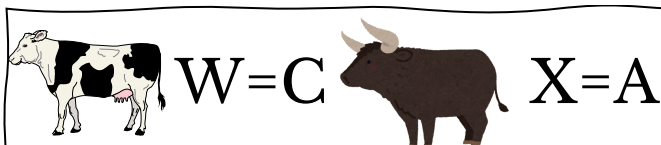
Somewhere in this cabin is the answer—and it’s going to take all of you to find it.



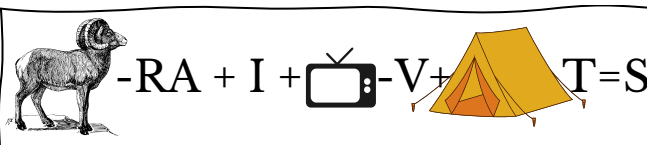
1

REBUS PUZZLE

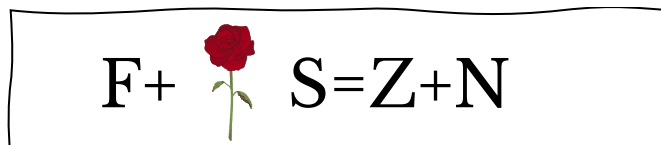
Use the images to determine the word. Spell them correctly in the boxes below. Then, unscramble the letters in the gray-shaded boxes.



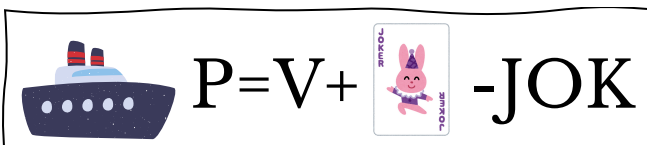
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--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



FIRESIDE

THERMOS

FESTIVE

FREEZING

2

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. OMSWANN

2. AILRZDZB

3. ZEEERF

4. NLAEBKT

5. NLERNAT



FROSTBITE

WINTERTIME

SNOWFIELD

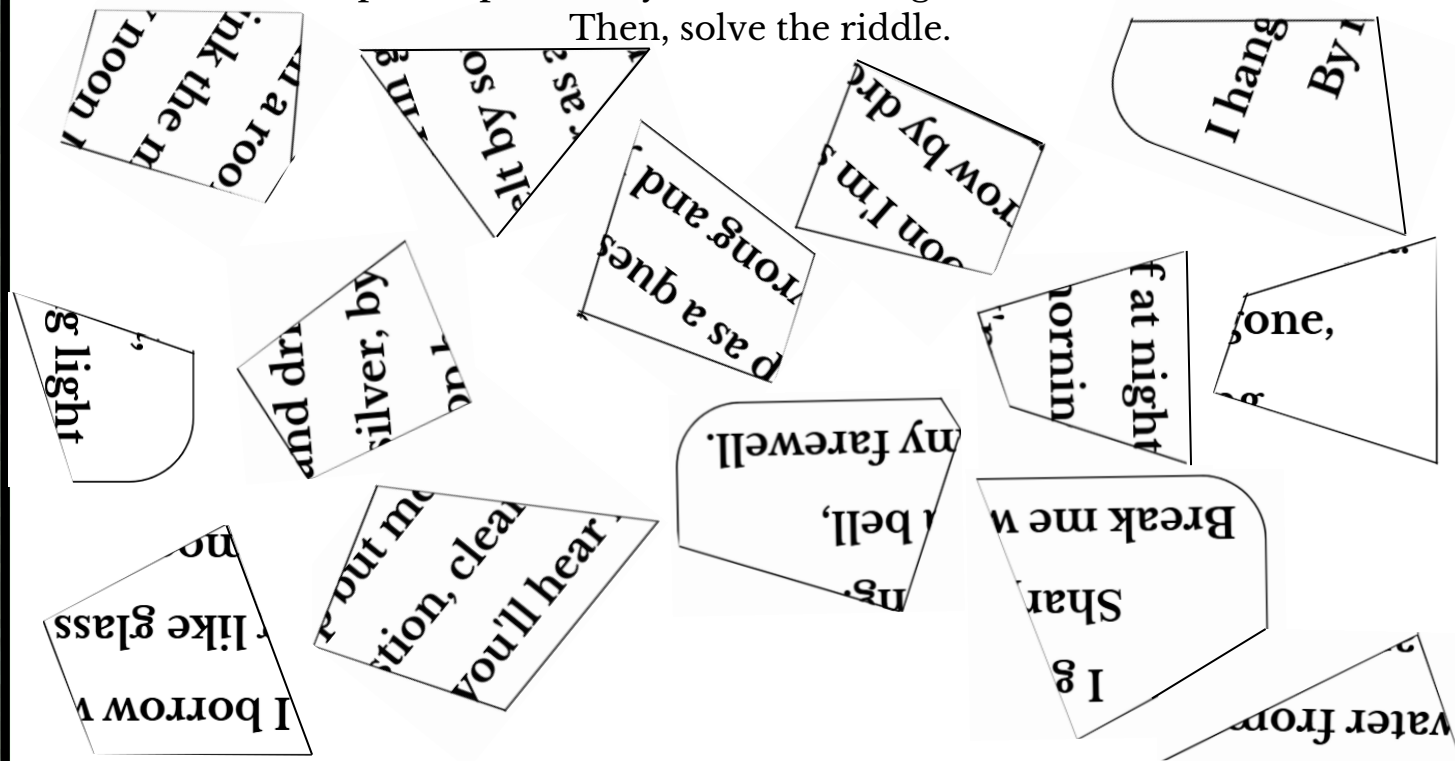
FROSTLADEN

3

PUZZLE RIDDLE

Cut out the puzzle pieces so you can rearrange them to read the riddle.

Then, solve the riddle.



4

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	D	A	E	
2	H	J	G		F
3	K	N		O	M
4		P	U	R	T
5	Z		Y	V	X

54, 12, 41, 25, 43, 44, 21,
42, 23, 51, 33, 34, 21, 41, 14, 31, 54,
33, 41, 31, 14, 54, 43, 23, 41, 24.

54, 12, 41, 25, 43, 44, 21, 12, 31, 14
53, 43, 44, 41, 54, 12, 31, 23, 41, 42, 32, 12, 54,
33, 41, 54, 54, 41, 44, 14.

54, 12, 41, 25, 43, 44, 21, 21, 43, 41, 14, 23,
43, 54, 41, 23, 21, 25, 42, 54, 12, 31, 54.



PENGUINS	SLEDDING	GLOVES
PEPPERMINT	FIREPLACE	COLD FRONT

5

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 yvtrmh drgs HMLD.

Gsviv ziv zg ovzhg mrmv ovggvih rm gsv dliw.

Gsv dliw xlmgzrmh zm O.



SNOWPLOW

SNOWSHOES

FIRELIGHT

SNOWBALL

WINDSTORM

SNOWFLAKE

6

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.

H +  -R+  -NT+R

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

S+  -CK+  -AR+S

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

 +  -RA

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

P+  P=F+F+  -RA

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



THERMOSTAT

FROSTBITTEN

FIREPLACES

HIBERNATION

PUZZLE RIDDLE

Then, solve the riddle.



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. ANGTOOBG
2. PRODEW
3. NIEOFBR
4. AIEMUOTN
5. LWOSFLAN

■							■
				■	■		
	■				■		
■				■		■	
■			■				



WHITEOUT	WINTER LANDS
WINTER STORM	SNOWBALLING

9

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	

Gsviv ziv nliv gszm hrc ovggvih rm gsv dliw.

Gsv dliw rh z mlfm.

Rg rh lmob lmv dliw (mlg gdl).



CHOCOLATE	ICE CRYSTAL	IGLOOS
NORTH WIND	SLEDDING	WINTER WEAR

10

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		D	A	C
2	H	F	I		K
3	L	O		P	N
4	S	U	Q	T	
5		Z	W	Y	V

32, 44, 32, 14, 44, 35, 23,
35, 23, 54, 31, 14.

44, 12, 11, 35, 23, 54, 31, 32, 14,
14, 23, 33, 11, 44, 12, 32, 53, 42,
45, 23, 24, 51, 41, 53, 12, 23, 13, 31.

45, 23, 24, 51, 41, 53, 53, 23, 44,
35, 11, 41, 54, 44, 12, 32, 14.



SNOWPACK	SNOW ANGEL	ICE HOCKEY
SNOW SHOVEL	SKI JACKET	ICE SKATES

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											
9											
10											

Remove numbers that start with S.

Eliminate all zeros.

Remove the remaining middle number.

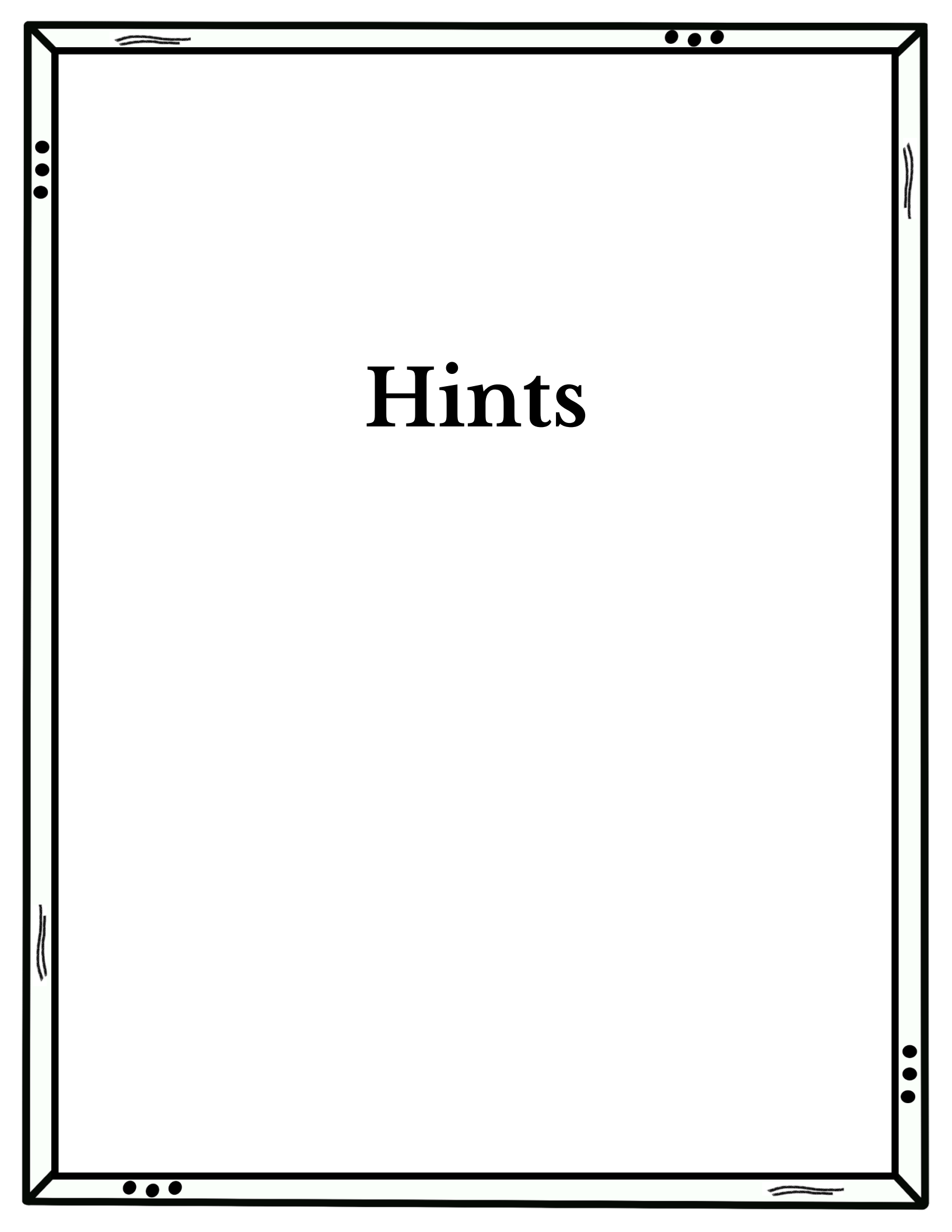
A=2	J=9	S=8
B=5	K=1	T=9
C=8	L=5	U=4
D=6	M=7	V=6
E=4	N=3	W=2
F=1	O=0	X=5
G=0	P=6	Y=3
H=7	Q=2	Z=1
I=3	R=4	

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.

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"



D=L

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.

	1	2	3	4	5
1	B	D	A	E	
2	H	J	G		F
3	K	N		O	M
4		P	U	R	T
5	Z		Y	V	X

Example: 13 = K
Go right 1 and down 3

Example: 24 = P
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.

PUZZLE RIDDLE

Players will need to cut out the puzzle pieces so they can put the puzzle together. It will form a riddle for the players to solve.

Card 3 Hint: I form where drips freeze and disappear when the sun sings.

Card 7 Hint: You see me on cold mornings, not after the sun warms the world.

All of the words used in these puzzles are related to winter.

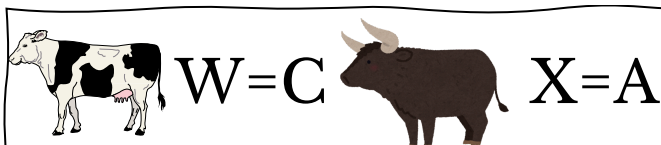
Answers

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

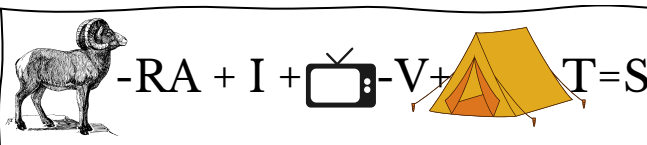
1

REBUS PUZZLE

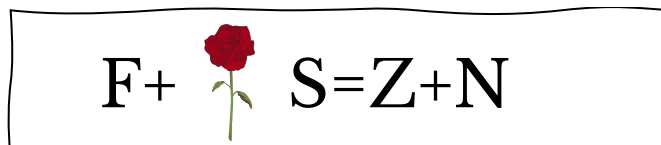
Use the images to determine the word. Spell them correctly in the boxes below. Then, unscramble the letters in the gray-shaded boxes.



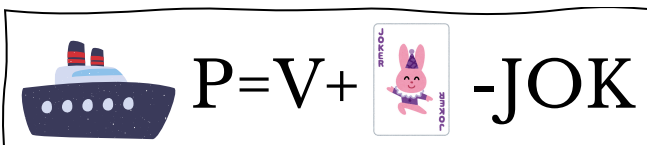
C	O	C	O	A			
---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--



M	I	T	T	E	N	S	
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--



F	R	O	Z	E	N		
---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--



S	H	I	V	E	R		
---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--



FIRESIDE

THERMOS

FESTIVE

FREEZING

2

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. OMSWANN

S	N	O	W	M	A	N	
B	L	I	Z	Z	A	R	D
F	R	E	E	Z	E		
B	L	A	N	K	E	T	
L	A	N	T	E	R	N	

2. AILRZDZB

3. ZEEERF

4. NLAEKBT

5. NLERNAT



FROSTBITE

WINTERTIME

SNOWFIELD

FROSTLADEN

3

PUZZLE RIDDLE

Cut out the puzzle pieces so you can rearrange them to read the riddle.
Then, solve the riddle.

I borrow water from a roof at night,
I hang like glass and drink the morning light.
By moon I'm silver, by noon I'm gone,
I grow by drop but melt by song.
Sharp as a question, clear as a bell,
Break me wrong and you'll hear my farewell.

ICICLE

4

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

The word includes at least one P.

The word has more than eight letters.

The word does not end with a T.



PENGUINS

SLEDDING

GLOVES

PEPPERMINT

FIREPLACE

COLD FRONT

5

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 begins with SNOW.

There are at least nine letters in the word.

The word contains an L.



SNOWPLOW

SNOWSHOES

FIRELIGHT

SNOWBALL

WINDSTORM

SNOWFLAKE

6

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.

H +  - R +  - NT + R

H	E	A	T	E	R		
---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--

S +  - CK +  - AR + S

S	L	O	P	E	S		
---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--

 +  - RA

C	A	B	I	N			
---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--

P +  P = F + F +  - RA

P	U	F	F	I	N		
---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--



THERMOSTAT

FROSTBITTEN

FIREPLACES

HIBERNATION

7

PUZZLE RIDDLE

Cut out the puzzle pieces so you can rearrange them to read the riddle.
Then, solve the riddle.

I paint the glass in filigree lines,
A silent artist of frozen designs.
I creep without footsteps, not falling from skies,
Then vanish at whisper of warming replies.
Delicate lace on a windowpane,
Who leaves the garden in crystal remain?

FROST

8

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. ANGTOOBG

T	O	B	O	G	G	O	N
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

2. PRODEW

P	O	W	D	E	R		
---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--

3. NIEOFBR

B	O	N	F	I	R	E	
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--

4. AIEMUOTN

M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

5. LWOSFLAN

S	N	O	W	F	A	L	L
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



WHITEOUT

WINTER LANDS

WINTER STORM

SNOWBALLING

9

ATBASH ALPHABET

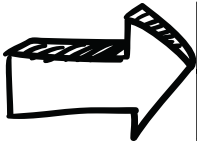
Use the decoder below to determine the clues.

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	

There are more than six letters in the word.

It is only one word (not two).

The word is a noun.



CHOCOLATE	ICE CRYSTAL	IGLOOS
NORTH WIND	SLEDDING	WINTER WEAR

10

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	I	G	K
3	L	O	M	P	N
4	S	U	Q	T	R
5	X	Z	W	Y	V

It is two words.

The word is something you can hold.

You cannot wear this.



SNOWPACK	SNOW ANGEL	ICE HOCKEY
SNOW SHOVEL	SKI JACKET	ICE SKATES

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	T	H	E	R	M	O	S				
2	F	R	O	S	T	B	I	T	E		
3	I	C	I	C	L	E					
4	F	I	R	E	P	L	A	C	E		
5	S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E		
6	H	I	B	E	R	N	A	T	I	O	N
7	F	R	O	S	T						
8	W	I	N	T	E	R	S	T	O	R	M
9	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E		
10	S	N	O	W	S	H	O	V	E	L	

7 9 4 4 2 0 1 7 0 0

Remove numbers that start with S.

Eliminate all zeros.

Remove the remaining middle number.

A=2	J=9	S=8
B=5	K=1	T=9
C=8	L=5	U=4
D=6	M=7	V=6
E=4	N=3	W=2
F=1	O=0	X=5
G=0	P=6	Y=3
H=7	Q=2	Z=1
I=3	R=4	



Scan the QR code to check
your answer!

4-DIGIT CODE

9 4 2 1

Did you enjoy this escape room?
Check out the full unit study about
winter and use code
ESCAPEROOM for \$5 off!
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 offerings!

Thank you!