

ABOUT THIS PACKET

Each reading passage in this packet allows students to work on comprehension skills after reading the passage several times searching for evidence.

OVERVIEW

THE CASE

Read the case aloud to your students so they understand the mission.

QUESTIONS

There are 18 questions to be answered by reading the passage and marking the text evidence.

CLUES

After answering each question, the students will **erase** their answer choice on their answer sheet. After all questions have been answered, the suspect, evidence, and location will be revealed.

GRADE LEVEL

RANGE

4

BEGINNING

4

MIDDLE

5

BEGINNING

5

MIDDLE

5

END

6

BEGINNING

6

MIDDLE

6

END

7

BEGINNING

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is the highest, most powerful court in the United States. It sits at the top of the Judicial Branch (Article III) of government. The main job of the Judicial Branch is to interpret the laws. The Supreme Court is located in Washington D.C. It is a large, prominent white building with massive columns out front. The Supreme Court helps maintain a fair and just legal system for anyone accused of a crime. This court has a wide impact on people across the United States by overturning and ruling on laws and cases.

Judges of the Supreme Court are called Justices. There are usually nine Justices but there have been as few as six. The head of the Justices is called the Chief Justice. The remaining eight Justices are called Associate Justices. Since the 1800's, the Justices have worn long black robes as a tradition. These Justices are appointed (chosen) by the President. However, the Senate must also approve them so this process is called Senate Confirmation.

Justices serve in the Supreme Court until retirement, impeachment, or death. Impeachment is when a high-ranking government official is accused of misconduct while in office. There is no term limit for this position, like there are in other government positions. A life term allows Justices to not worry about 'popularity' and therefore base their court decisions on the law, not winning an election. There are no age requirements, no education requirements, no experience requirements, and no citizenship requirements to become a Justice.

Mostly, the Supreme Court deals with cases that have been appealed (request a review) in lower courts. An appeal is made if someone is not happy with the ruling of a case. Not all appeals will make it to the Supreme Court, though. In fact, the Justices vote on which cases will and will not make it. Four out of nine Justices must agree to hear a case. Some cases go directly to the Supreme Court, but this is rare. Most of these cases

3

How many Justices must agree to hear a case?



9



8



4



7

4

How many total Justices does the Supreme Court have?



9



8



7



6

5

Construction of the Supreme Court building began in ____.



1862



1892



1912



1932

6

The Supreme Court hears ____ cases per year.



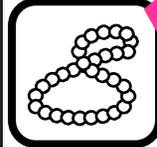
10-20



80-100



25-350



500

7

What is the main
job of the Judicial
Branch?



Enforce laws



Create laws



Execute laws



Interpret laws

8

Who must approve
of presidential
appointments?



Chief Justice



Vice President



Congress



Senate

9

Which case
declared
segregation in
schools illegal?



Plessy v Ferguson



Brown v Board



Tinker v Des
Moines



Bush v Gore

10

When a Justice
disagrees with the
decision of the majority,
a _____ opinion is given.



Majority



Dissenting



Concurring



Biased

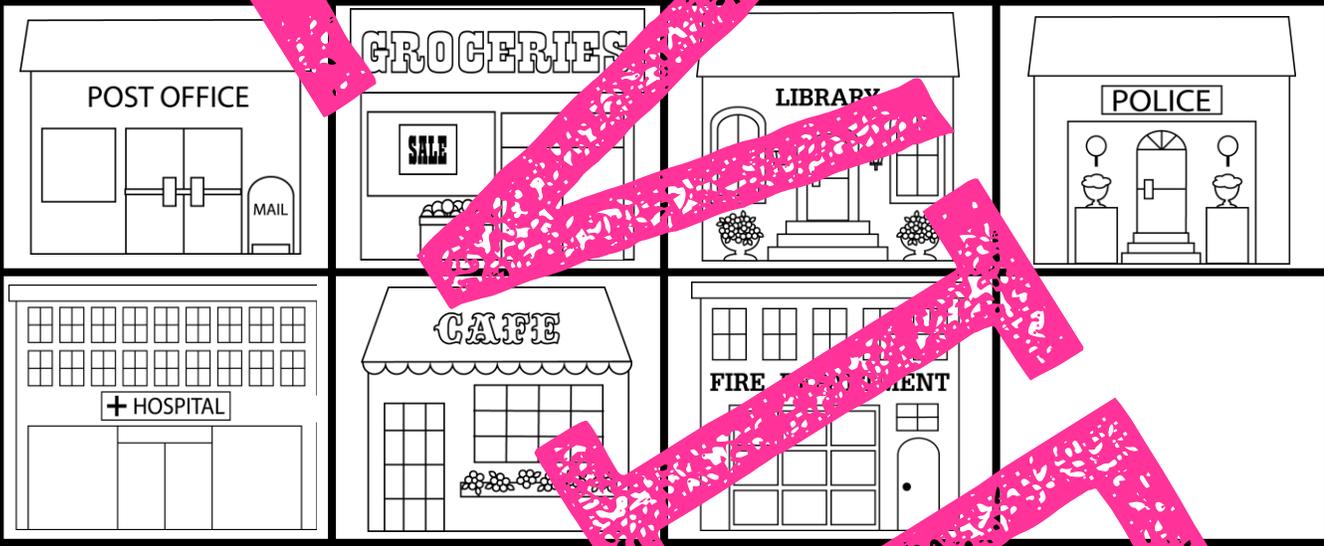
CASE FILE

Cross out the images you use as an answer. What remains will solve the case!

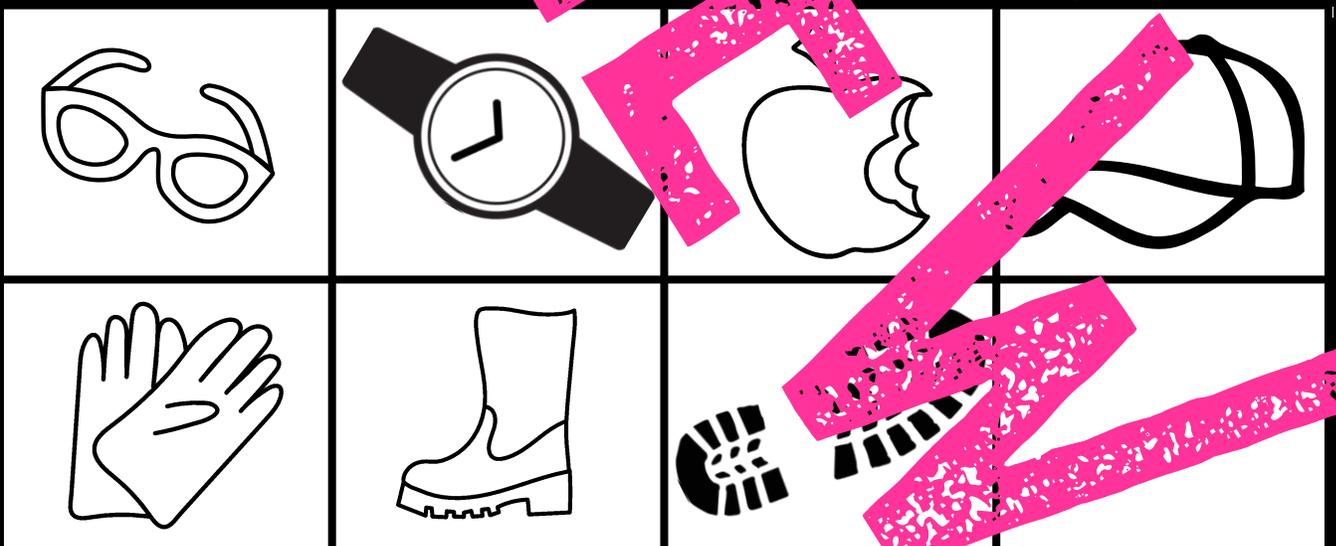
SUSPECTS



LOCATION



EVIDENCE



CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

MORE RESOURCES

Click on each icon!

