

ABOUT THIS PACKET

The 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 MARK OFF their answer choice on their answer sheet. After all questions have been answered, the suspect, evidence, and location will be revealed.

GRADE LEVEL

4

4

5

5

5

6

6

6

7

RANGE

BEGINNING

MIDDLE

END

BEGINNING

MIDDLE

END

BEGINNING

ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

Mesopotamia means "the land between rivers." Ancient Mesopotamia refers to a region in the Middle East (Southwest Asia) between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Because of its location between the rivers, the soil was very fertile (good for crops). The two rivers flowed into the Persian Gulf which is also known as the Fertile Crescent." Mesopotamia is often called the "Cradle of Civilization" because it is where the first civilization was born. A civilization is a group of people with their own systems and ways of life. Today, this land is located mostly in the country of Iraq and partly in Iran, Turkey, and Syria.

Early settlers set up their homes in villages and towns in Mesopotamia around the year 4000 BC. With the great soil for growing crops, they began to learn the processes of farming. The towns grew bigger as more people came, and they soon became city-states, single cities that make up an entire state. To keep order in these cities, new towns came about such as having a government, laws, and a writing system.

The first humans to create a civilization were the Sumerians. They were divided into city-states, with each one having its own government and king. They had a different god for each city and a temple for that god. They created a religious temple called a ziggurat in the center of every town. Sumerian religion was polytheistic, which means they worshipped multiple gods. Major gods included Anu (father of gods and the sky), Enlil (god of the air), Utu (god of sun, truth, and justice), Enanna (male god), Inanna (goddess of love and war), Ninhursag (goddess of earth), and Enki (god of fresh water, wisdom, and magic). During this time the Sumer invented the wheel, wagon, calendar, and a number-based system.

The Akkadians came after the Sumerians. The Akkadian ruler named Sargon conquered the Sumer. He created the Akkadian Empire and brought all of the Sumerian cities under the rule of one leader. The Akkadian language became the primary one instead of the Sumerian language.

3 Mesopotamia means
the land between
the _____ and the _____.



Oceans



Mountains



Rivers



Trees

4 The Babylonian laws
were created by King
_____.



Hammurabi



Sargon



Cyrus



Ashurbanipal

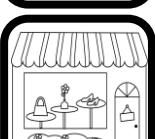
5 Mesopotamia is often called the
“_____ of Civilization.”



Carriage



Card



Crescent



Cradle

6 The Code of Hammurabi included
_____ laws.



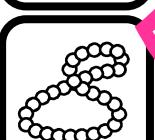
182



282



382



482

7 The _____ ruler named Sargon conquered Sumer.



Babylonian



Sumerian



Assyrian



Akkadian

8 What were single cities that make up an entire state called?



State-counties



State-cities



City-counties

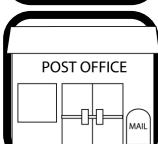


City-states

9 What word refers to worship multiple gods?



Monotheistic



Polytheistic



Deities



Thematic

10 The Babylonian Empire lasted for ____ years.



100



260



300



460

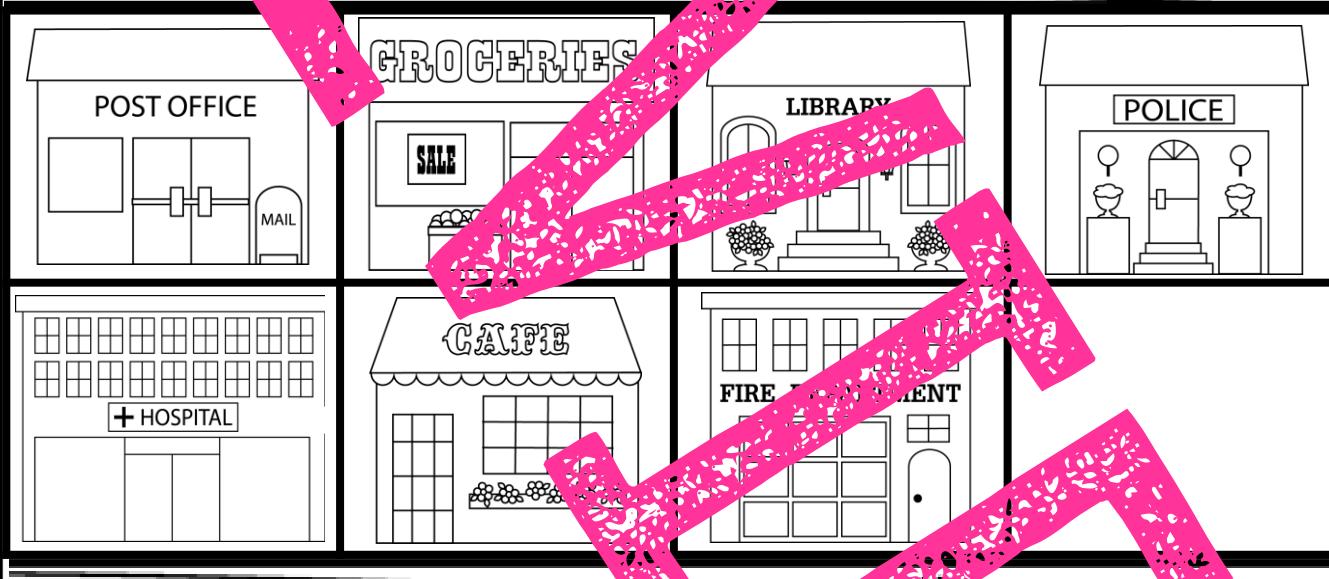
CASE FILE

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

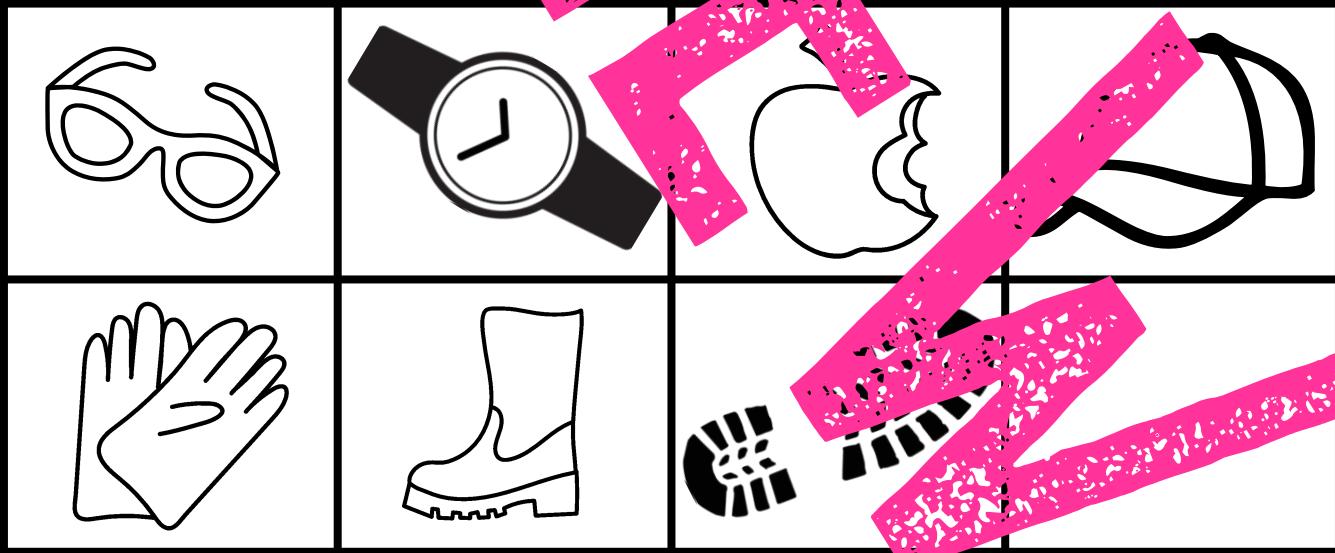
SUSPECTS



LOCATION



EVIDENCE



CONGRATULATIONS
YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!

LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:



CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!

LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

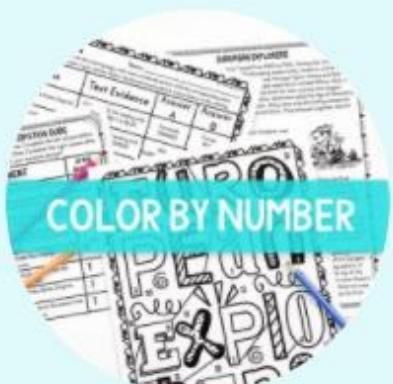


MORE RESOURCES

Click on each icon!



ELEMENTARY ESCAPE ROOMS



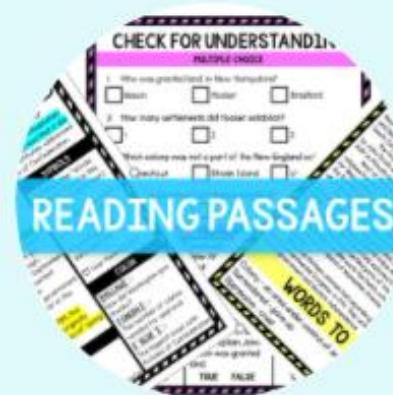
COLOR BY NUMBER



ESCAPE ROOMS



SCAVENGER HUNTS



READING PASSAGES



DIGITAL COMPREHENSION



DIGITAL ESCAPE ROOMS



COLLABORATIVE POSTERS



GOOGLE SLIDES



BOOM CARDS

