

# STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

## READING ESCAPE

**DECODER**

A=🍏 G=🧠 M=📧  
B=📁 H=🔋 N=👤  
C=🖋️ I=🧪 O=📄  
D=📊 J=📁  
E=🔒 K=🔋

**LEAD DETECTIVE**

SECURITY CLEARANCE: LEVEL 5  
AGENT NAME:  
CODENAME:  
BADGE #:  
PRECINCT 5005

**THINK TANK**

as you're as small  
as you say you  
can solve the  
and I will

**READING #2**

The very first State of the Union Address was delivered by George Washington in 1790. His speech was given at Federal Hall in New York City. At that time, New York City served as the temporary capital of the United States. Back then, the speech was called the "Annual Message" because the president would present his message to Congress, sharing important information about the country's progress and challenges. Washington believed it was crucial to keep the nation informed about the government's work. In 1801, Thomas Jefferson changed the tradition and instead delivered a written message to Congress. Jefferson's new tradition of delivering the State of the Union Address in writing lasted more than 100 years. In 1913, President Woodrow Wilson gave the speech in person to create more support of the president's agenda. Since then, most presidents have given the speech in person.

**DECODER**


1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10

SECURITY CLEARANCE: LEVEL 5  
**LEAD DETECTIVE**  
AGENT NAME:  
CODENAME:  
BADGE #:  
PRECINCT 5005

SECURITY CLEARANCE: LEVEL 5  
**LEAD DETECTIVE**



# 6 PASSAGES



**READING #1**

The very first State of the Union was delivered by George Washington. His speech was given at Federal Hall in New York City. At that time, New York was the temporary capital of the United States.

Back then, the speech was called the "Annual Message" because the president presented his message to Congress. It was an important way to share information about progress and challenges. We know it was crucial to keep the nation united about the government's work.

In 1801, Thomas Jefferson started the tradition and instead delivered his message to Congress. This tradition of delivering the State of the Union Address in writing lasted until 1913. President Woodrow Wilson was the first to deliver the address in person to Congress.

**DECODER**

A = 🍏 G = 🌍 M = 🍌  
 B = 📁 H = 🍷 I = 🍷  
 C = 🍷 J = 📁  
 D = 📁 K = 📁  
 E = 📁 F = 🍷

**READING #3**

Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President of the United States, made history by becoming the first president to have his annual address broadcast on the radio. The broadcast allowed Americans from coast to coast to hear the president's words directly.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt (America's 32nd President) officially referred to the annual address given by the president to Congress as the "State of the Union" in his opening remarks.

On January 20, 1945, President Truman made history by having his State of the Union address broadcast on the White House radio.

**DECODER**

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:  
 Today mark the first state of the Union and President Washington began this tradition in 1789. It is the duty of the president to preserve the Union and the sacred flame of liberty. It is the duty of the president to be true to our friends in the press, who place a high premium on the truth. I did not actually hear George Washington's address. It is a matter of historic record.

**READING #6**

The attendance of the speech is not limited to official government members. The president can invite guests who will sit with the First Lady. The president may invite citizens that have made notable contributions to the nation.

**DECODER**

1	2	3
D	B	E
K		H
	P	N
T	R	Q
	Z	X
		V

**READING #5**

A designated survivor is a high-ranking government official who is chosen to remain in a secure and undisclosed location during the address. His or her identity is kept confidential. This is done as a precautionary measure to ensure the continuity of government in the event of a devastating disaster, incident or attack.


The tradition of having a designated survivor gained prominence during the Cold War era when concerns about potential nuclear war were high. The practice became a standard protocol.

The designated survivor is typically a member of the president's cabinet who is eligible to assume the presidential duties in the event of a disaster. The designated survivor is typically a member of the president's cabinet who is eligible to assume the presidential duties in the event of a disaster.

The first president to have an official designated survivor during the State of the Union Address was President Ronald Reagan.

**DECODER**

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

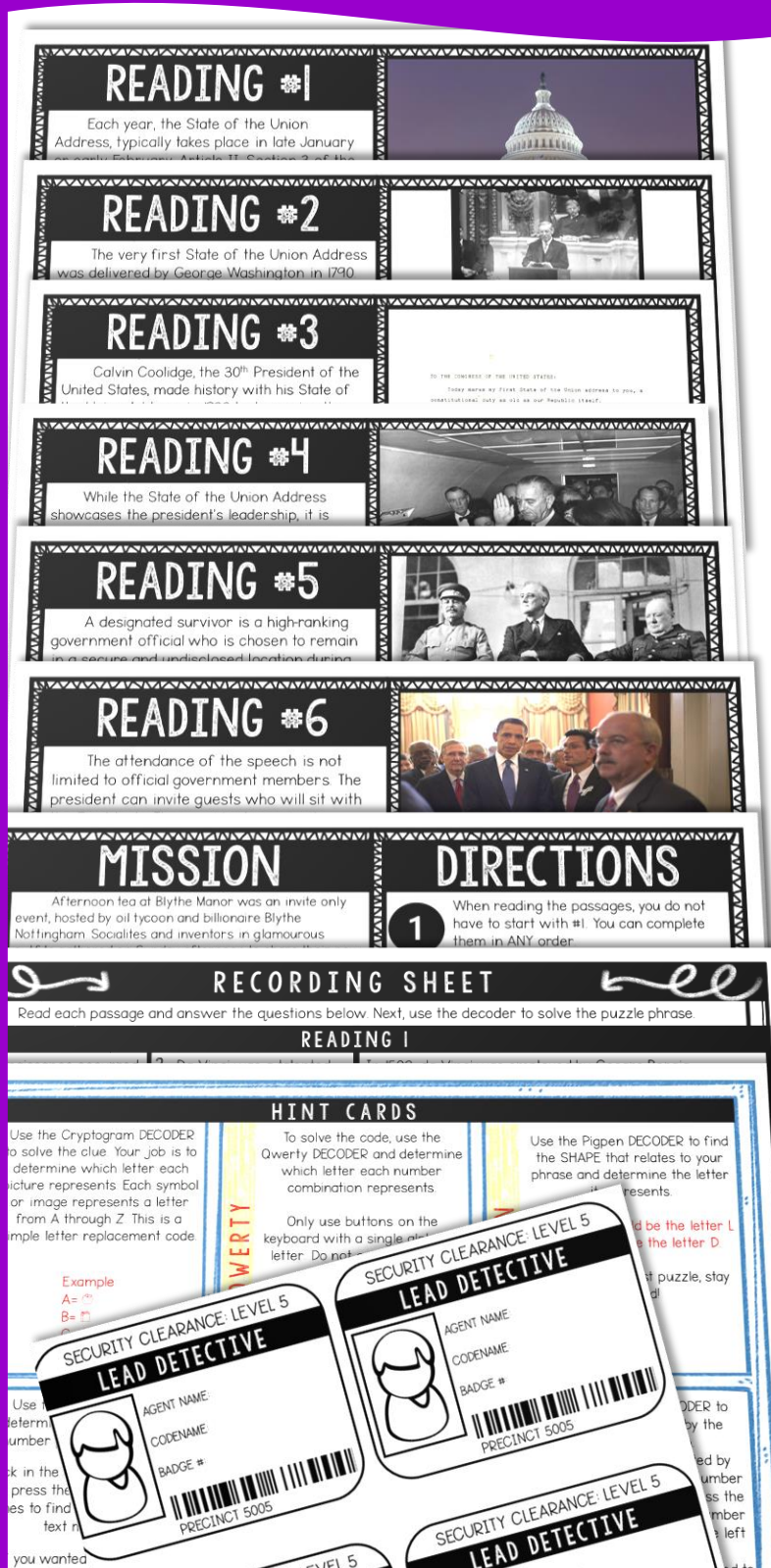


**DECODER**

1	2	3
D	B	E
K		H
	P	N
T	R	Q
	Z	X
		V



# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

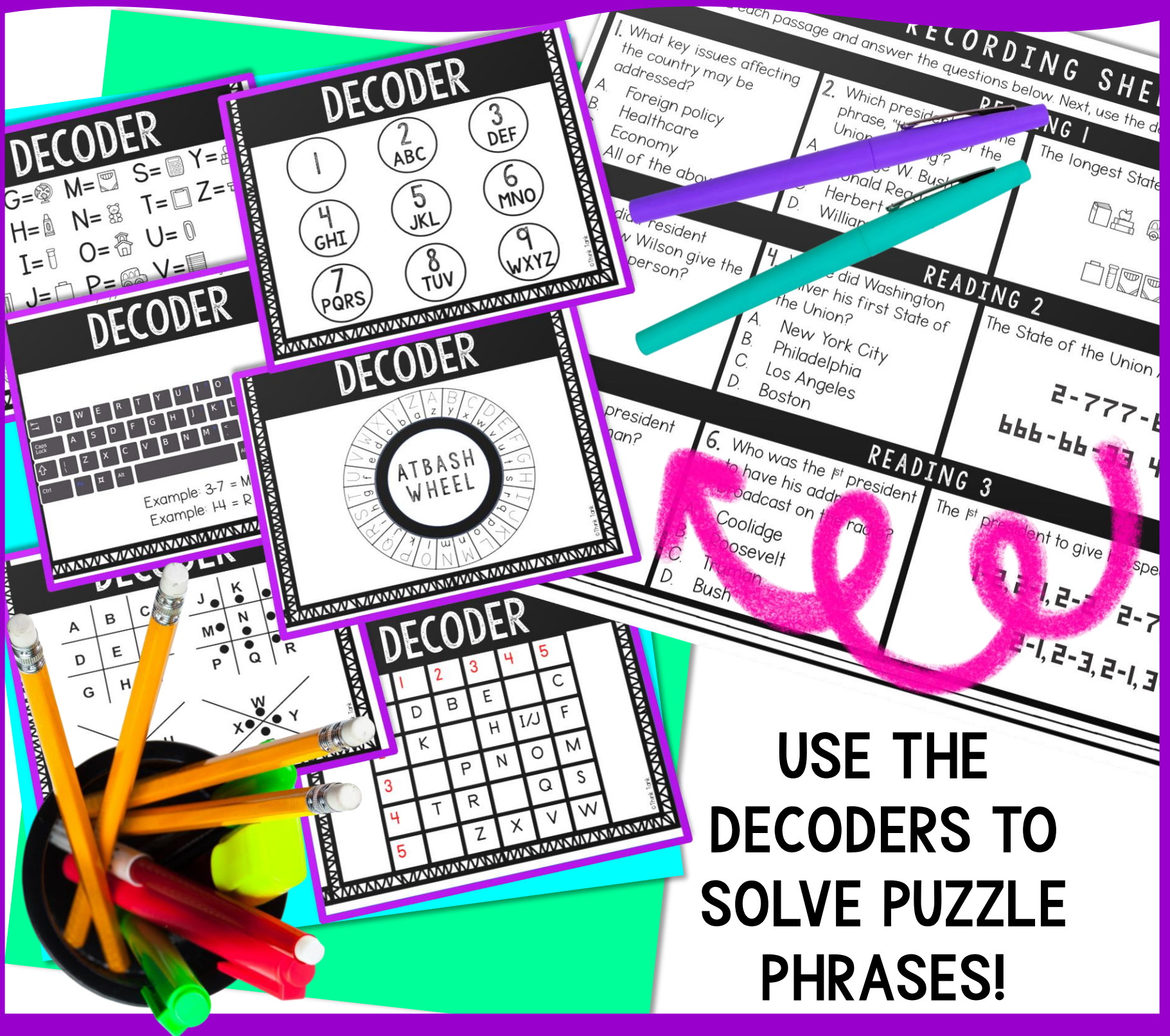


- ✓ 6 Half page passages
- ✓ 6 Puzzle decoders
- ✓ 12 Multiple choice Q's
- ✓ Teacher guide
- ✓ Answer key
- ✓ Student directions
- ✓ Hint cards





# PUZZLE TYPES



**USE THE  
DECODERS TO  
SOLVE PUZZLE  
PHRASES!**



# NO PREP!

u're as smart  
ou say you  
s solve the  
les and I w  
urn your pri  
money!

ENTER



SCAM



PRECINCT  
#5005





# HOW IT WORKS

## ENGAGING READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE!

1

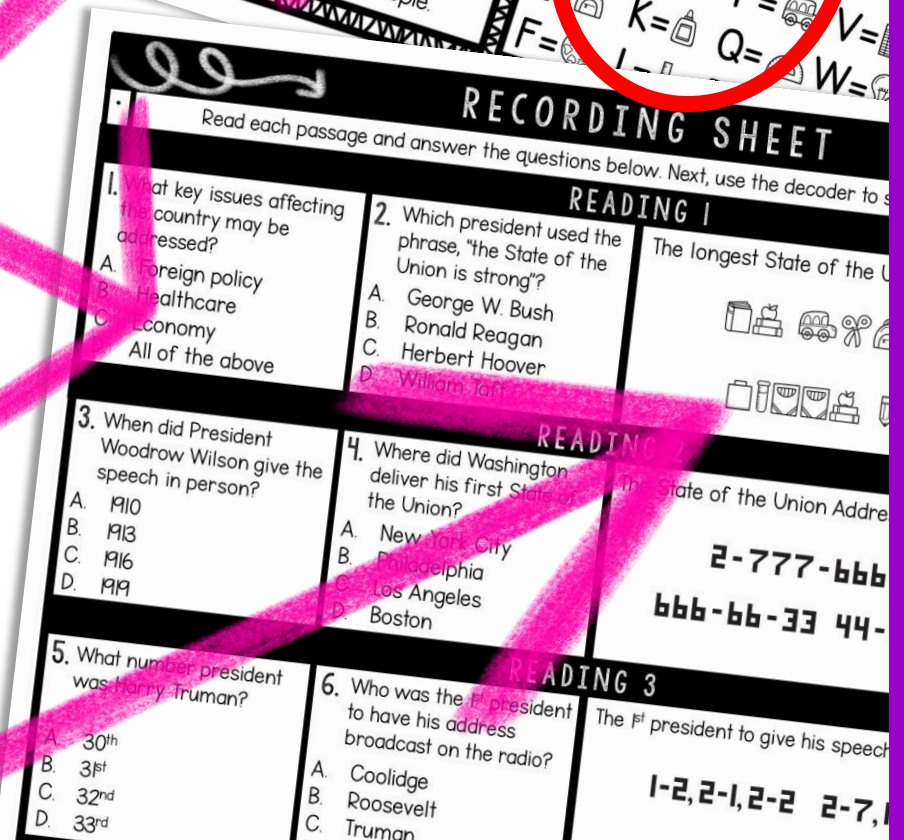
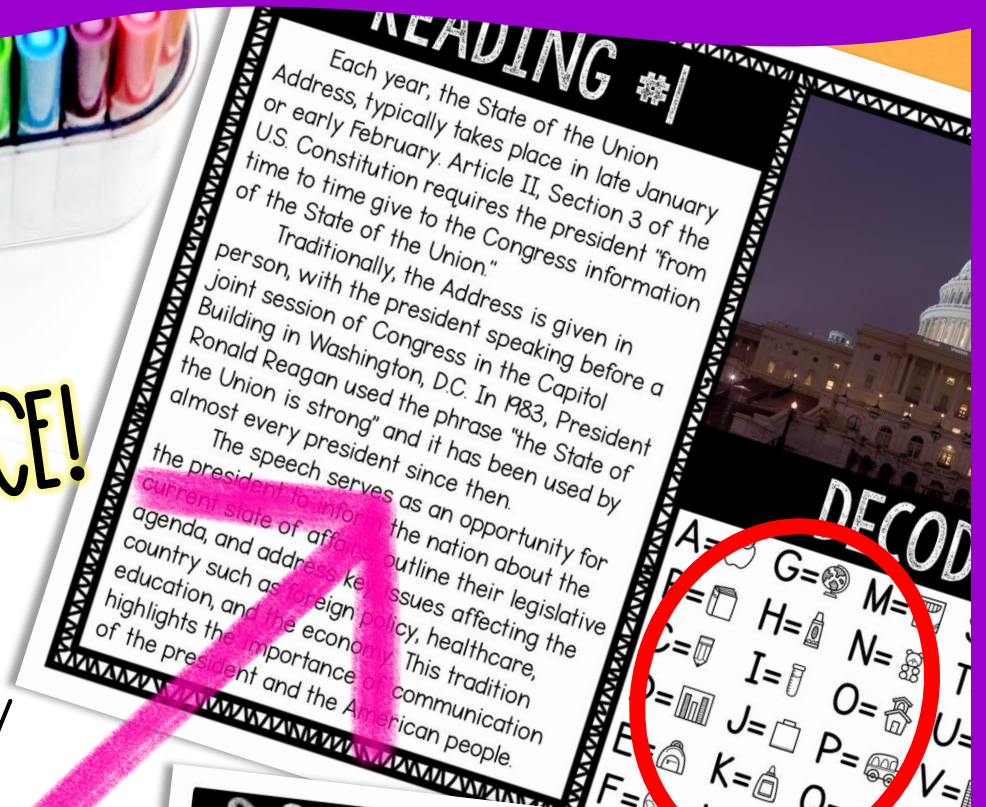
Students work individually (or in pairs) and visit SIX reading stations.

2

Students will answer the questions related to that passage on their recording sheet.

3

Students will use that specific “decoder” to reveal a “clue” about the topic.







# BENEFITS & USE



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

-  ANTICIPATORY SETS
-  UNIT REVIEW
-  EARLY FINISHERS
-  STATIONS
-  SUB PLANS
-  PARTNER WORK
-  ENRICHMENT

-  NO PREP
-  PRINT AND GO
-  CROSS-CURRICULAR
-  HIGHLY ENGAGING