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CODE CRACKER: THE

CHRISTMAS PRESENT THIEF

Turn your classroom into a detective agency with "The Christmas Present Thief", a captivating, low-prep mystery activity that will have your students hooked from start to finish! Perfect for middle to upper primary students, this engaging resource challenges students to crack four different codes to uncover the culprit in a classic "whodunit" style.

What is included:

- Background Story to set the scene
- Four Clues to decipher and use for eliminating suspects
- List of Suspects for logical deduction
- Answer Key for easy teacher guidance
- Presentation to project (story and suspect list)

How to use this resource:

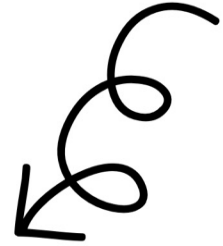
Start the lesson by reading the background story as a class. Students then work independently or in groups to tackle each code, eliminating suspects along the way. Each clue narrows down the suspect list by half, building excitement until only one culprit remains! Best of all, students can complete the clues in any order, allowing for flexible use in different classroom setups.

Bring the thrill of a mystery to your classroom and watch your students become Christmas detectives in this code-cracking adventure.

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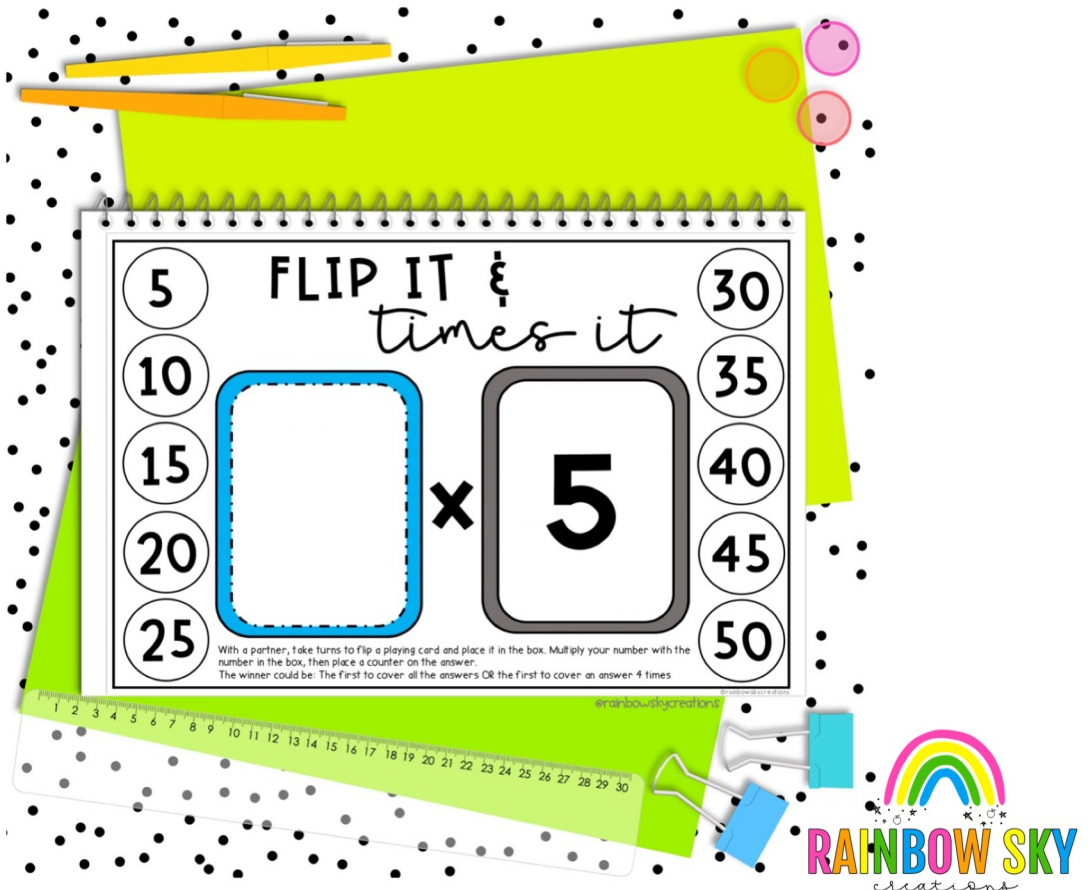


Click the images to take you there.

We absolutely LOVE seeing
the creative ways different
teachers are using our
resources in the classroom.
Share it on Instagram using
the hashtag
#rainbowskycreations and
tag us in it!



STOP FOR THIS FREEBIE



Easy games to build students fluency with
Multiplication Facts

Perfect to use as:

- ✓ A differentiated task
- ✓ Maths centre
- ✓ Fast finisher game
- ✓ Revision lesson

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"My kids loved this game and didn't even realise that they were practicing their times tables" Joanna

WHO STOLE THE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS?

You woke early on Christmas morning only to discover that all the presents under the Christmas tree are missing.

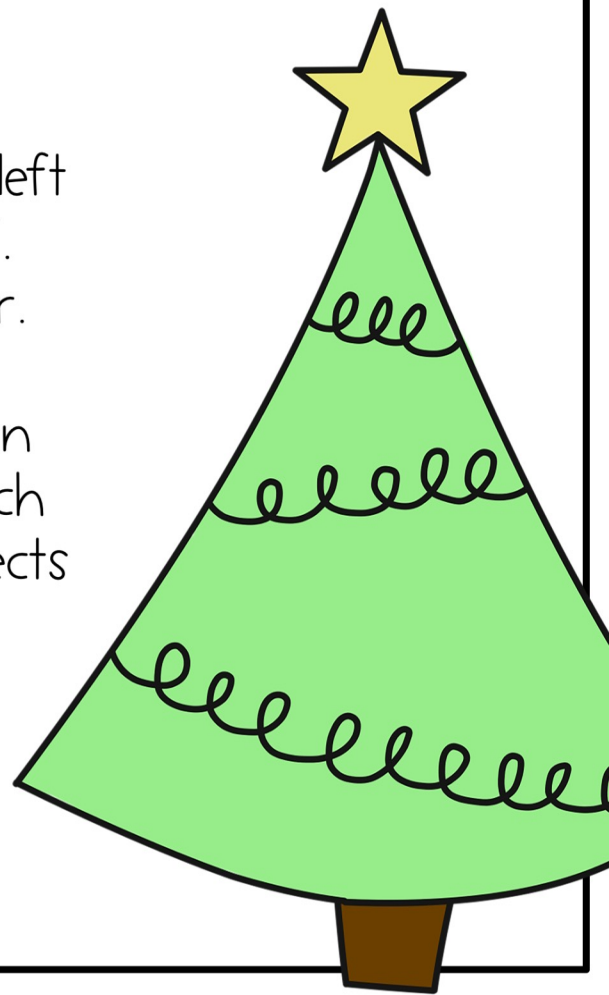
You need to solve which person in your street has stolen the presents before everyone else in the house wakes up.

The thief could be any of the 25 people who live in your street.

There are five witnesses. Each has left a clue to help you identify the thief.
You can solve the clues in any order.

Once you have solved a clue you can eliminate some of the suspects. Each clue will remove a handful of suspects until you are down to just one!

Good luck and start cracking those clues.



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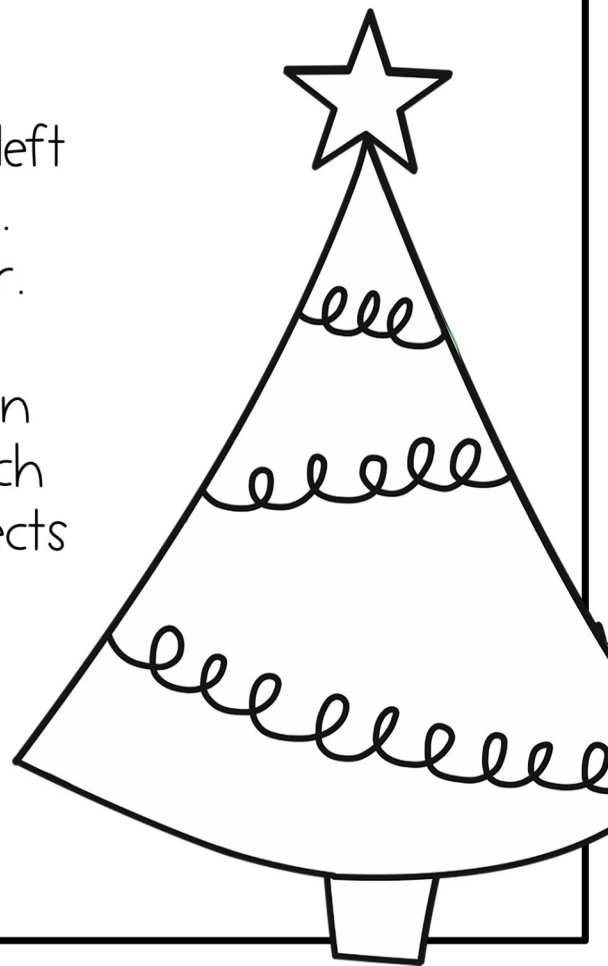
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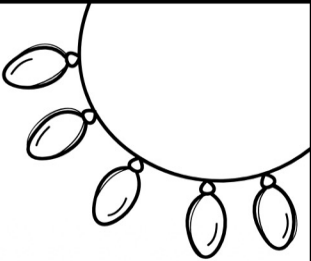
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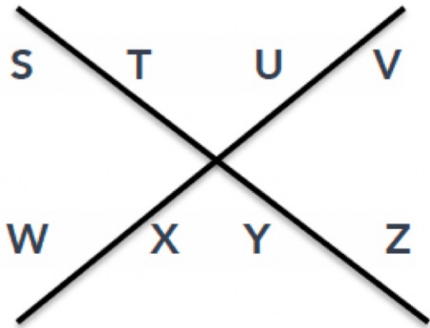
Good luck and start cracking those clues.



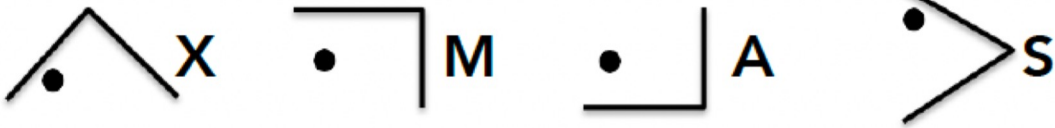
Clue 1



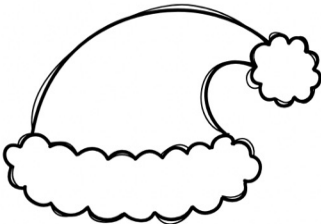
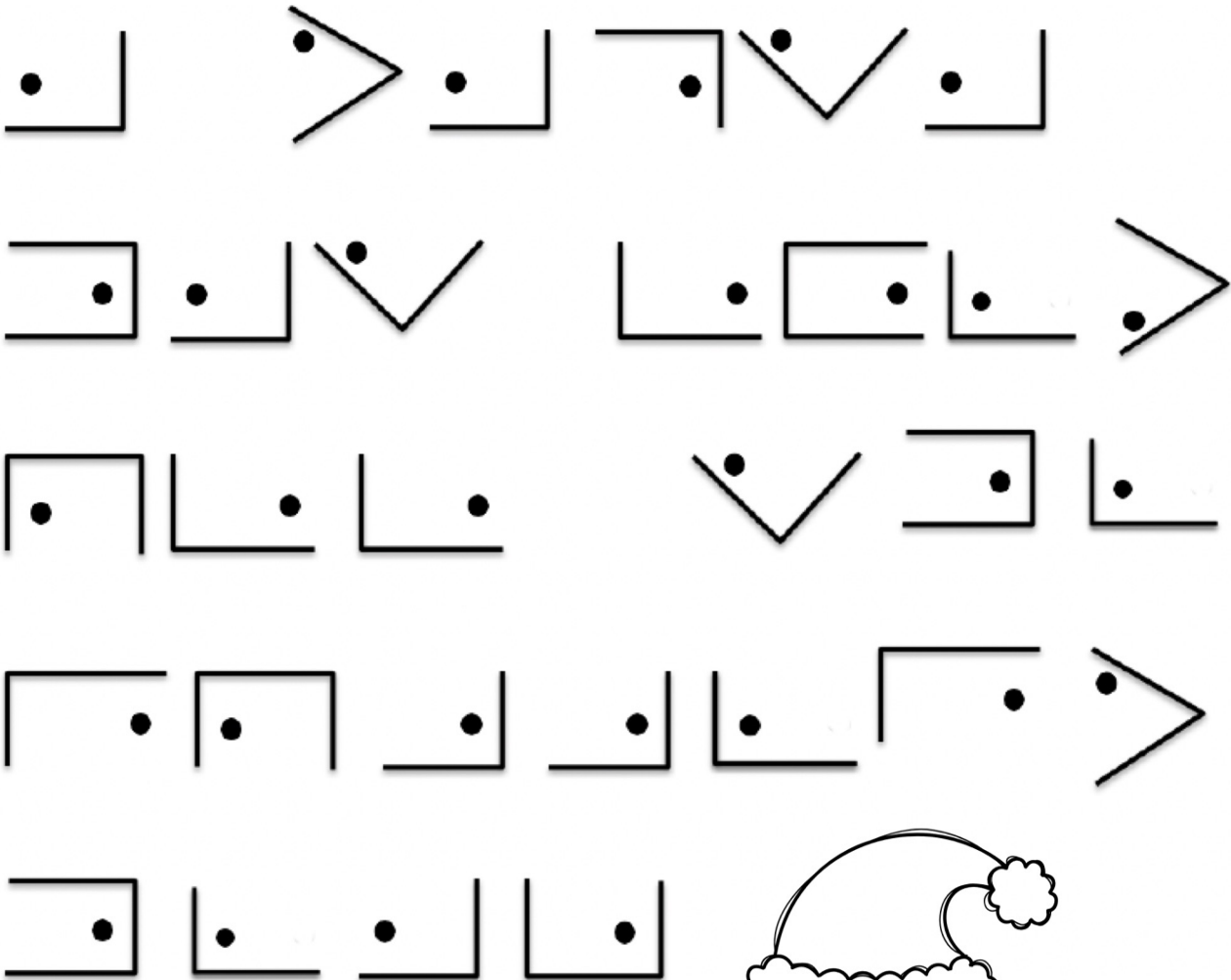
A	B	C	D	E	F
G	H	I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P	Q	R



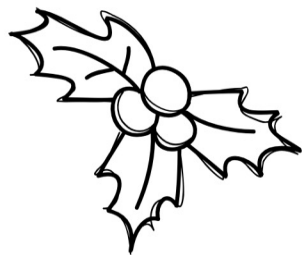
Example



Your turn now!



Clue 2



Solve the code by using the coordinates.

8	present	we	I	hair	had	Christmas
7	found	reindeer	he	lollies	present	never
6	he	glasses	next	broken	hop	light
5	ornaments	behind	ran	down	tree	glasses
4	santa	under	night	jump	up	we
3	here	hat	elves	dark	the	I
2	Christmas	they	stocking	her	before	after
1	over	broken	tree	before	trip	night
	A	B	C	D	E	F

E3 _____

B4 _____

F5 _____

A2 _____

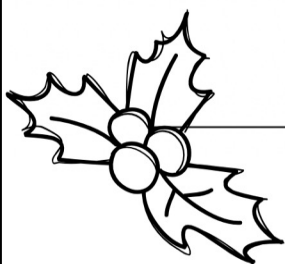
D6 _____

C8 _____

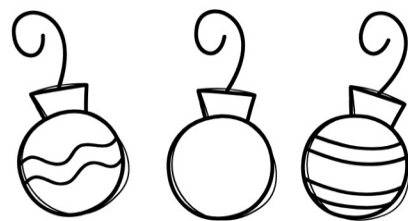
C1 _____

A7 _____

The words are jumbled. You will have to put the words in the correct order to read the clue.



Clue 3



First, work out the answers:

A	$6 \times 7 =$	N	$99 \div 11 =$
B	$232 + 75 =$	O	$500 + 70 + 1 =$
C	$175 - 20 =$	P	$3 \times 2 + 4 =$
D	$54 \div 3 =$	Q	$15 \times 3 =$
E	$27 \times 5 =$	R	$49 + 128 =$
F	$20 - 4 - 3 =$	S	$98 - 33 =$
G	$9 \times 11 =$	T	$30 \times 4 =$
H	$36 \div 12 =$	U	$6 \times 6 + 13 =$
I	$400 + 30 + 2 =$	V	$76 - 43 =$
J	$5 \times 8 - 9 =$	W	$76 \div 4 =$
K	$3 \times 7 =$	X	$54 - 20 \times 2 =$
L	$358 - 122 =$	Y	$50 \times 2 - 19 =$
M	$7 \times 4 + 16 =$	Z	$63 \div 9 =$

Now match the numbers to the letters.

432 65, 42, 19 65, 571, 44, 135, 571, 9, 135

19, 432, 120, 3 307, 236, 571, 9, 18, 135

3, 42, 432, 177 155, 42, 177, 177, 81, 432, 9, 99

42 99, 177, 135, 135, 9 65, 42, 155, 21

Clue 4

This is a Caesar cipher. You need to see how many letters the alphabet has been shifted by.

- The A's were replaced with F's
- The G's were replaced with L's
- The P's were replaced with U's
- The Z's were replaced with E's



A						G								P											Z
F						L								U											E

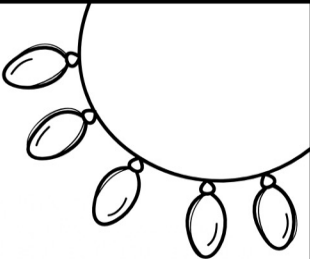
Y M J Y M N J K J F X N Q D

H Q N R G J I T A J W Y M J

Y F Q Q K J S H J

N S T S J O Z R U.

Clue 5



Use the coordinates to crack the code.

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

(5,6) (1,5) (1,1) (3,6) (6,4) (4,1) (2,4)

(1,5) (1,6) (6,1) (2,4) (4,3) (4,3) (5,4) (1,1) (2,4)

(2,3) (4,2) (1,5) (6,4) (5,4)

(2,5) (5,5) (5,6) (4,4) (3,3) (4,1) (4,6) (4,3) (1,3) (4,1)

(5,2) (4,1) (3,2) (2,5) (5,4)



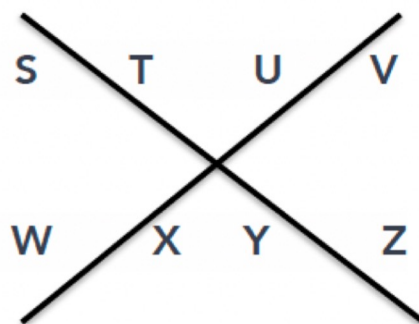
List of Suspects



	Name	Gender	Height	Hair	Glasses	Santa hat
1	Jack Smith	M	Tall	Light	Y	Y
2	Ty Robson	M	Short	Dark	Y	N
3	Britney Rose	F	Short	Light	N	Y
4	Randall Twig	M	Short	Dark	Y	N
5	Adrian Walker	M	Tall	Dark	N	Y
6	Fitzroy Bones	M	Short	Dark	Y	Y
7	Danny Jones	M	Short	Light	N	Y
8	Louise Quirk	F	Tall	Dark	N	Y
9	Kingston House	M	Tall	Light	Y	Y
10	Frank Tower	M	Short	Dark	Y	N
11	Sofia Galiano	F	Short	Light	Y	Y
12	Lucy Cobb	F	Tall	Light	N	Y
13	Robert White	M	Short	Dark	Y	Y
14	Mary White	F	Short	Dark	Y	N
15	Lilly Anders	F	Tall	Light	N	N
16	Carol Campbell	F	Short	Dark	Y	Y
17	Ava Watson	F	Tall	Light	Y	Y
18	Jason Ronalds	M	Short	Dark	Y	Y
19	Morgan Tate	F	Short	Dark	Y	Y
20	Frankie Johns	F	Tall	Dark	N	Y
21	Taha Mills	M	Short	Light	Y	Y
22	Kelly Fisher	F	Short	Light	Y	N
23	Jesse Flower	F	Tall	Dark	N	N
24	Daisy Stone	F	Short	Dark	Y	N
25	Harry Fry	M	Tall	Light	N	Y

Clue 1 - Answers

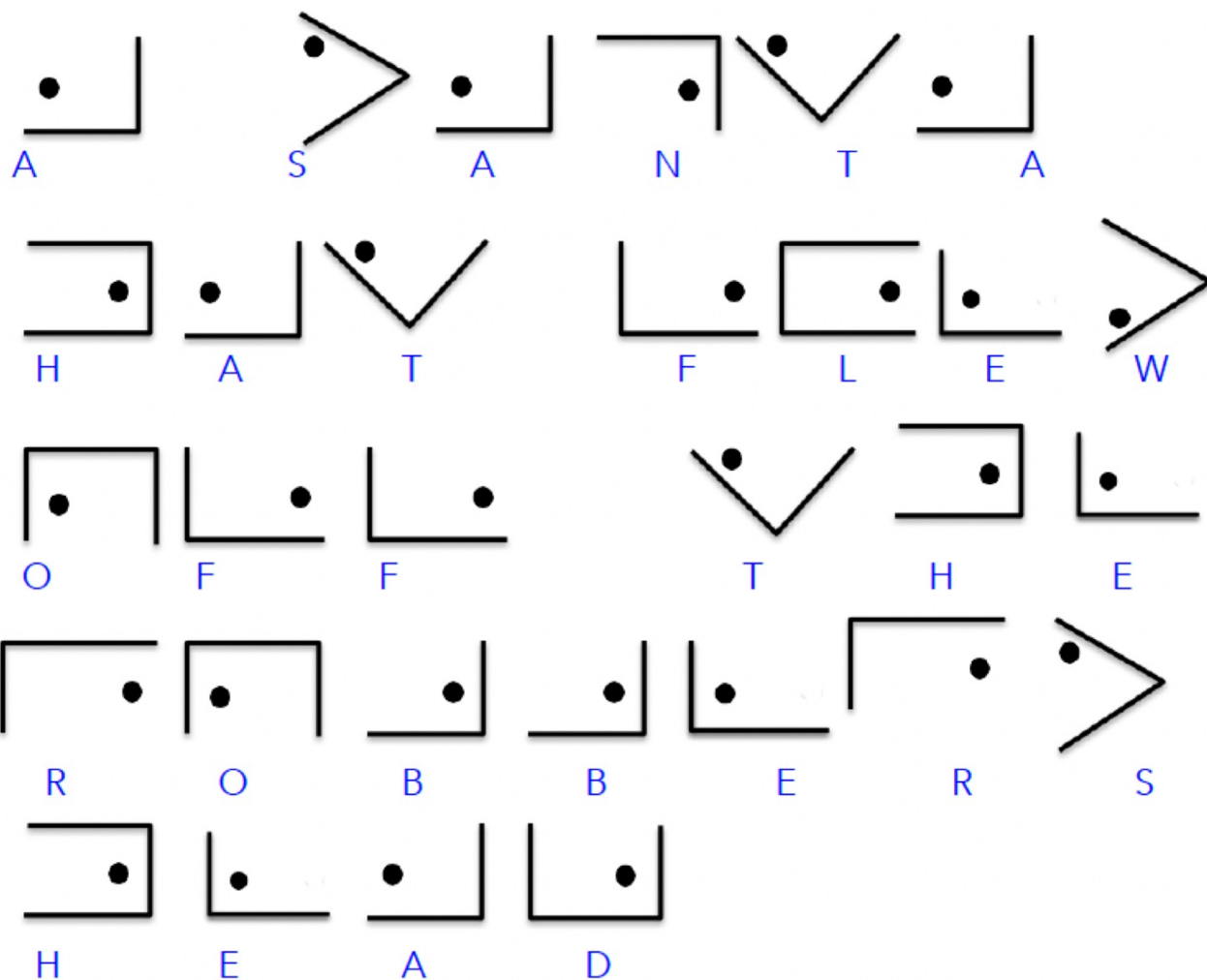
A	B	C	D	E	F
G	H	I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P	Q	R



Example



Your turn now!



Clue 2 - Answers

Solve the code by using the coordinates.

8	present	we	I	hair	had	Christmas
7	found	reindeer	he	candy	present	never
6	he	glasses	next	broken	hop	light
5	ornaments	behind	ran	down	tree	glasses
4	santa	under	night	jump	up	we
3	here	hat	elves	dark	the	I
2	Christmas	they	stocking	her	before	after
1	over	broken	tree	before	trip	night
	A	B	C	D	E	F

E3 the

B4 under

F5 glasses

A2 Christmas

D6 broken

C8 I

C1 tree

A7 found

The words are jumbled. You will have to put the words in the correct order to read the clue.

I found broken glasses under the Christmas tree.

Clue 3 - Answers

First work out the answers

A	$6 \times 7 = 42$	N	$99 \div 11 = 9$
B	$232 + 75 = 307$	O	$500 + 70 + 1 = 571$
C	$175 - 20 = 155$	P	$3 \times 2 + 4 = 10$
D	$54 \div 3 = 18$	Q	$15 \times 3 = 45$
E	$27 \times 5 = 135$	R	$49 + 128 = 177$
F	$20 - 4 - 3 = 13$	S	$98 - 33 = 65$
G	$9 \times 11 = 99$	T	$30 \times 4 = 120$
H	$36 \div 12 = 3$	U	$6 \times 6 + 13 = 49$
I	$400 + 30 + 2 = 432$	V	$76 - 43 = 33$
J	$5 \times 8 - 9 = 31$	W	$76 \div 4 = 19$
K	$3 \times 7 = 21$	X	$54 - 20 \times 2 = 14$
L	$358 - 122 = 236$	Y	$50 \times 2 - 19 = 81$
M	$7 \times 4 + 16 = 44$	Z	$63 \div 9 = 7$

Now match the number to the letter.

432 65, 42, 19 65, 571, 44, 135, 571, 9, 135

I S A W S O M E O N E

19, 432, 120, 3 307, 236, 571, 9, 18, 135

W I T H B L O N D E

3, 42, 432, 177 155, 42, 177, 177, 81, 432, 9, 99

H A I R C A R R Y I N G

42 99, 177, 135, 135, 9 65, 42, 155, 21

A G R E E N S A C K

Clue 4 - Answers

This is a Caesar cipher. You need to see how many letters the alphabet has been shifted by.

The A's were replaced with F's

The G's were replaced with L's

The P's were replaced with U's

The Z's were replaced with E's

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

Y M J

The

Y M N J K

thief

J F X N Q D

easily

H Q N R G J I

climbed

T A J W

over

Y M J

the

Y F Q Q

tall

K J S H J

fence

N S

in

T S J

one

O Z R U.

jump.

Clue 5 - Answers

Use the coordinates to crack the code.

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

(5,6) (1,5) (1,1) (3,6) (6,4) (4,1) (2,4)
I saw her

(1,5) (1,6) (6,1) (2,4) (4,3) (4,3) (5,4) (1,1) (2,4)
skirt tear

(2,3) (4,2) (1,5) (6,4) (5,4)
as she

(2,5) (5,5) (5,6) (4,4) (3,3) (4,1) (4,6) (4,3) (1,3) (4,1)
climbed the

(5,2) (4,1) (3,2) (2,5) (5,4)
fence

Suspect Responsible

	Name	Gender	Height	Hair	Glasses	Santa hat
1	Jack Smith	M	Tall	Light	Y	Y
2	Ty Robson	M	Short	Dark	Y	N
3	Britney Rose	F	Short	Light	N	Y
4	Randall Twig	M	Short	Dark	Y	N
5	Adrian Walker	M	Tall	Dark	N	Y
6	Fitzroy Bones	M	Short	Dark	Y	Y
7	Danny Jones	M	Short	Light	N	Y
8	Louise Quirk	F	Tall	Dark	N	Y
9	Kingston House	M	Tall	Light	Y	Y
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24	Daisy Stone	F	Short	Dark	Y	N
25	Harry Fry	M	Tall	Light	N	Y