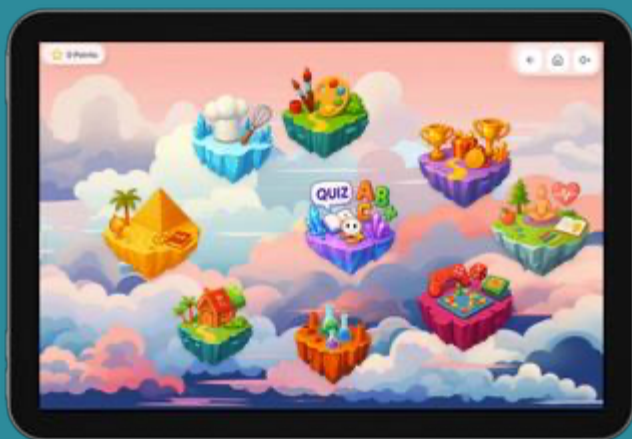




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Decoding Strategies – Foundation

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DECODING



DETECTIVE TOOLKIT

When a word is tricky, try a tool:

1.

CHECK THE MARKS

Notice . ? ! and read with expression.



2.

TRY BOTH VOWELS

Say the short sound, then the long sound.



3.

STRETCH THE SOUNDS

Say each sound slowly, then blend.



4.

START WITH THE FIRST SOUND

Get your mouth ready.



5.

LOOK AT THE PICTURE

Use the picture as a clue.



6.

SKIP, THEN RETURN

Read on, then come back.



7.

REREAD

Try the word and sentence again.



8.

ASK FOR HELP

After you have tried your tools.



DECODING TOOL CARDS

CHECK THE MARKS



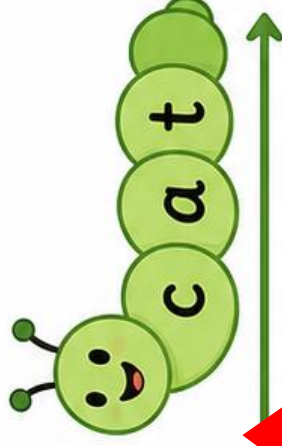
Notice . ? ! and read with expression.

TRY BOTH VOWELS



Say the short sound, then the long sound.

STRETCH THE SOUNDS



Say each sound slowly, then blend.

START WITH THE FIRST SOUND



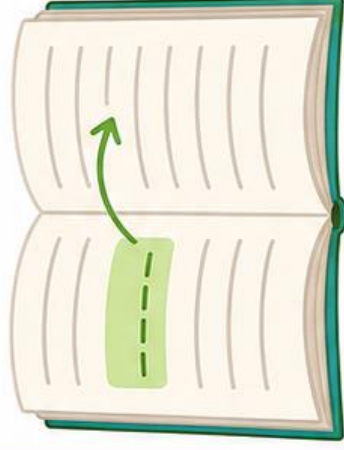
Get your mouth ready.

LOOK AT THE PICTURE



Use the picture as a clue.

SKIP, THEN RETURN



Read on, then come back.

RE-READ



Try the word and sentence again.

ASK FOR HELP



After you have tried your tools.

MY DECODING TOOLS



1. Check marks



2. Try both vowels



3. Stretch sounds



4. First sound



5. Picture clue



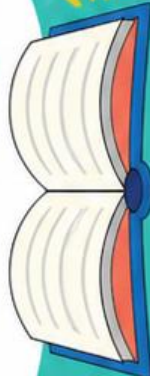
6. Skip and return



7. Reread



8. Ask for help



MY DECODING TOOLS



1. Check marks



2. Try both vowels



3. Stretch sounds



4. First sound



5. Picture clue



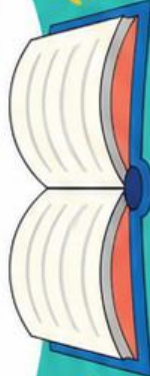
6. Skip and return



7. Reread



8. Ask for help



MY DECODING TOOLS



1. Check marks



2. Try both vowels



3. Stretch sounds



4. First sound



5. Picture clue



6. Skip and return



7. Reread



8. Ask for help



MY DECODING TOOLS



1. Check marks



2. Try both vowels



3. Stretch sounds



4. First sound



5. Picture clue



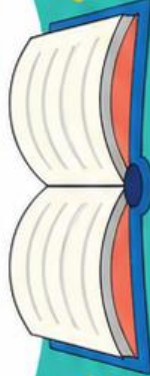
6. Skip and return



7. Reread



8. Ask for help



PICTURE CLUE DETECTIVE

Look at each picture and choose the word that makes sense. Point to the word that makes sense.



The red ___ is in the sky.

kite

cup

pig



The frog is by the ___.

pond

bed

hat



The cat naps on the ___.

mat

log

bus



The dog finds a ___.

bone

cake

seed

VOWEL SWITCH

Can you find the short sound or long sound? Try both!



cap

cap

↕

kit

kit

↕

cub

cub

↕

tap

tap

↕

pin

pine

↕

tube

tube

↕

hop

hope

↕

can

cane

↕



RULES

1. Roll and move.
2. Read the word.
3. Try its vowel partner.
4. First to FINISH wins!

VOWEL SWITCH WORD CARDS

cap



cape



kit



kite



cub



cube



tap



tape



pin



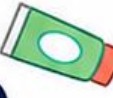
pine



tub



tube



hop



hope



can



cane



SOUND CHUNK SPIN



Spin a chunk. Read a word. Make a word.



1. Spin a chunk.

2. Read it aloud.

3. Say a word with that chunk.

4. Check the word mats.



SOUND CHUNK WORD MAT A

at



cat



hat



mat

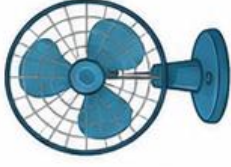


rat

an



can



fan



man



van

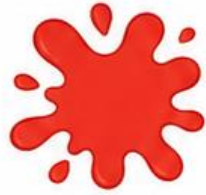
ed



bed



fed



red



sled

on



pond



song



strong

SOUND CHUNK WORD MAT B

up

cup



pup



jump



crash



or

fork



corn



storm



short



er

her



fern



term



perch



ate

gate



late



mate



plate



1. Roll and move.
2. Draw a card.
3. Read it or use a tool.
4. First to FINISH wins!



FINISH



DECODE & DASH CARDS

1

tap



2

made



3

frog



4

sun



5

bike



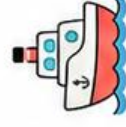
6

cup



7

ship



8

home



9

The bird is in the ____.



nest

hat

10

I can see a ____
in the pond.



frog

bed

11

Mia ran to the ____.



gate

sun

12

The dog ran
to the ____.



gate

cake

13

Can you hop?



14

I found it!



15

Look out!



16

I like fish.



VOWEL DETECTIVE



Name: _____.

PART A

Circle SHORT or LONG.

cap	☐ SHORT	☐ LONG
kite	☐ SHORT	☐ LONG
cub	☐ SHORT	☐ LONG
pine	☐ SHORT	☐ LONG

PART B

Draw a line to match the vowel partners.

cap

kit

cub

pin

cube

cape

pine

kite

VOWEL DETECTIVE



Name: ANSWERS.

PART A

Circle SHORT or LONG.

cap	☒ SHORT	☐ LONG
kite	☐ SHORT	☒ LONG
cub	☒ SHORT	☐ LONG
pine	☐ SHORT	☒ LONG

PART B

Draw a line to match the vowel partners.

1 cap

2 kit

3 cub

4 pin

3 cube

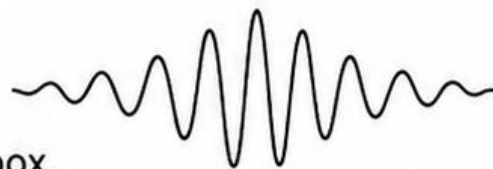
1 cape

4 pine

2 kite

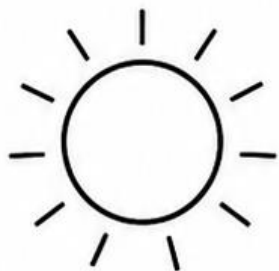
STRETCH THE SOUNDS — START HERE

Name: _____.



Say each word slowly. Write one sound in each box.

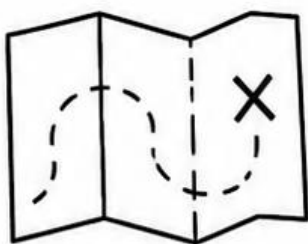
1.



sun

--	--	--

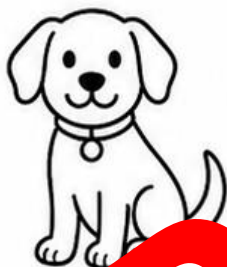
2.



map

--	--	--

3.



dog

--	--	--

4.



fish

--	--	--

5.



ship

--	--	--

6.



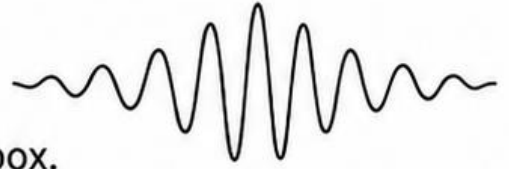
ring

--	--	--

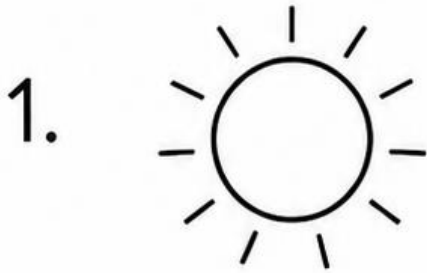
PREVIEW

STRETCH THE SOUNDS — START HERE

Name: ANSWERS.

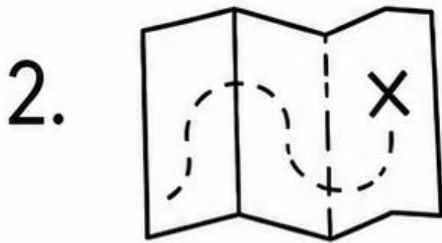


Say each word slowly. Write one sound in each box.



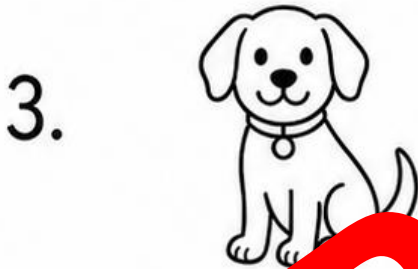
sun

s	u	n
---	---	---



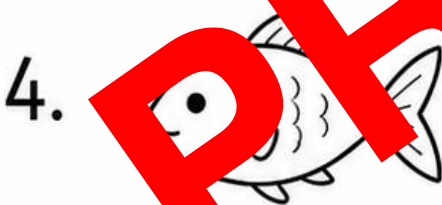
map

m	a	p
---	---	---



dog

d	o	g
---	---	---



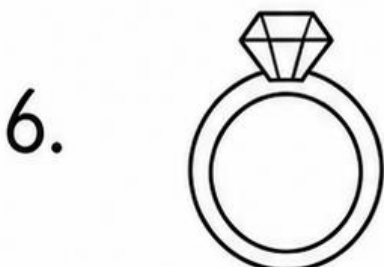
fish

f	i	sh
---	---	----



ship

sh	i	p
----	---	---



ring

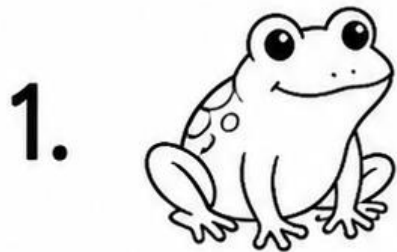
r	i	ng
---	---	----

STRETCH THE SOUNDS — KEEP GOING



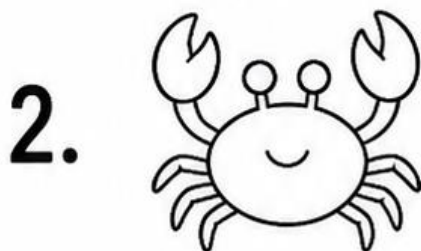
Name: _____.

Say each word slowly. Write one sound in each box.



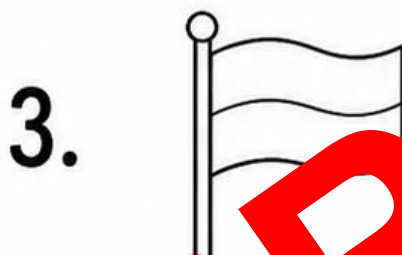
frog

--	--	--	--



crab

--	--	--	--



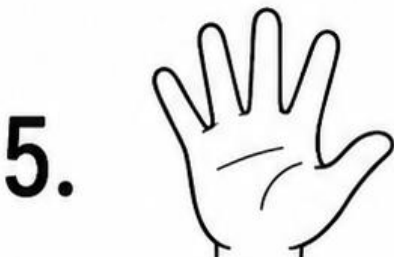
flag

--	--	--	--



nest

--	--	--	--



hand

--	--	--	--



lamp

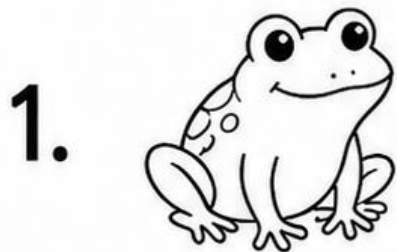
--	--	--	--

STRETCH THE SOUNDS — KEEP GOING



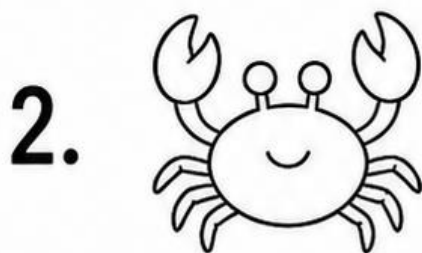
Name: _____ **ANSWERS** _____.

Say each word slowly. Write one sound in each box.



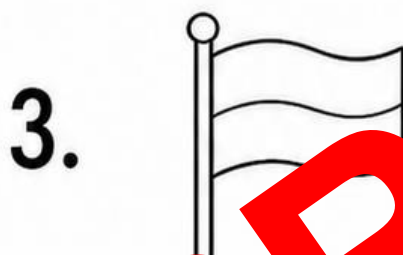
frog

f	r	o	g
---	---	---	---



crab

c	r	a	b
---	---	---	---



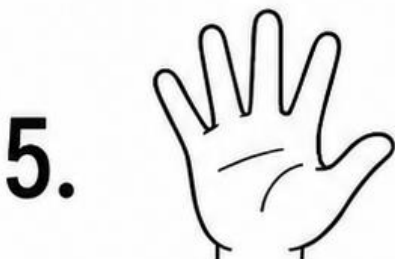
flag

f	l	a	g
---	---	---	---



nest

n	e	s	t
---	---	---	---



hand

h	a	n	d
---	---	---	---



lamp

l	a	m	p
---	---	---	---

FIRST SOUND FINDER

Name: _____.

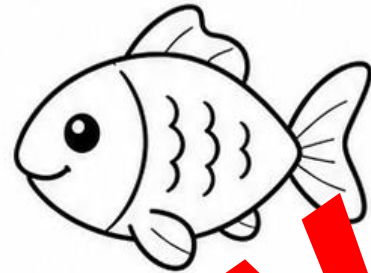
Look at the picture. Circle the word that starts with the right sound.

1.



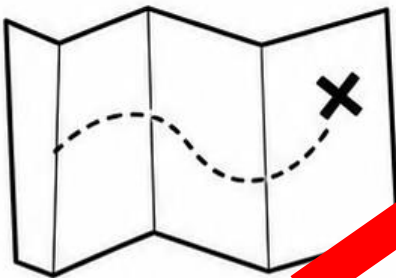
sun / run

2.



fish / wish

3.



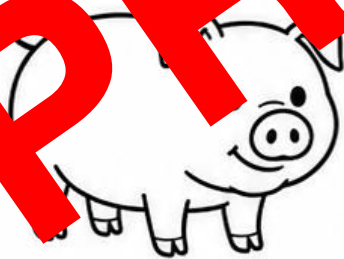
map / cup

4.



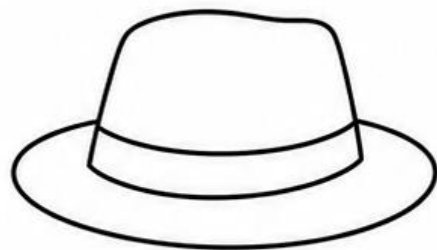
dog / log

5.



pig / wig

6.



hat / cat

7.



cup / pup

8.



bed / red

FIRST SOUND FINDER

Name: ANSWERS.

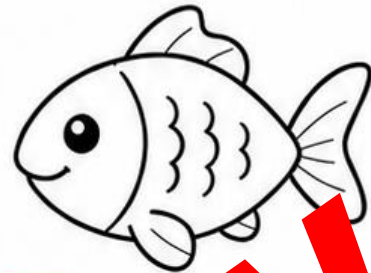
Look at the picture. Circle the word that starts with the right sound.

1.



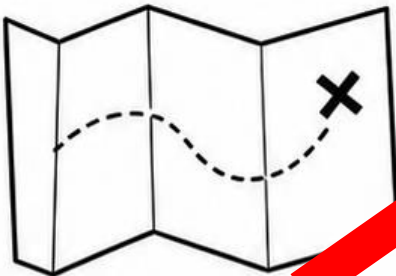
sun / run

2.



fish / dish

3.



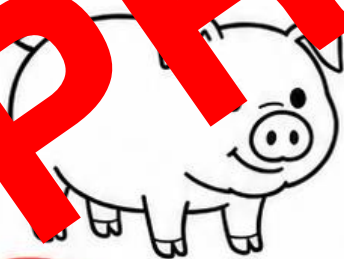
map / cup

4.



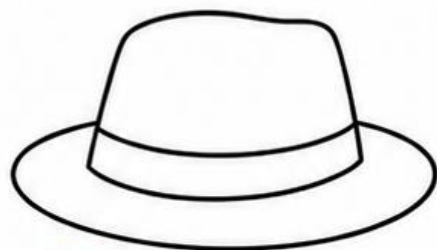
dog / log

5.



pig / wig

6.



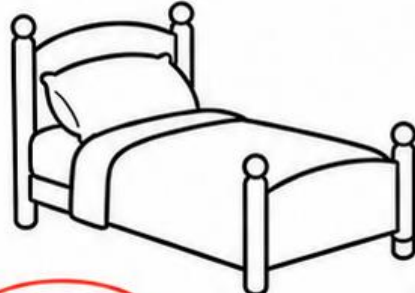
hat / cat

7.



cup / pup

8.



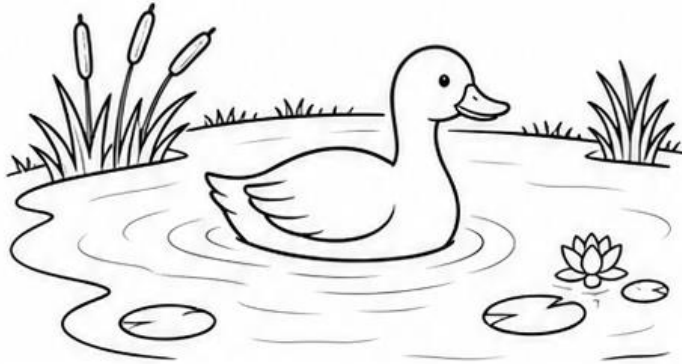
bed / red

PICTURE CLUE READER

Name: _____.

Look at the picture. Circle the word that completes the sentence.

1



The duck is in the ____.

pond bed

2



The cat naps on the ____.

mat log

3



The kite is in the ____.

sky pond

4



Ben reads a ____.

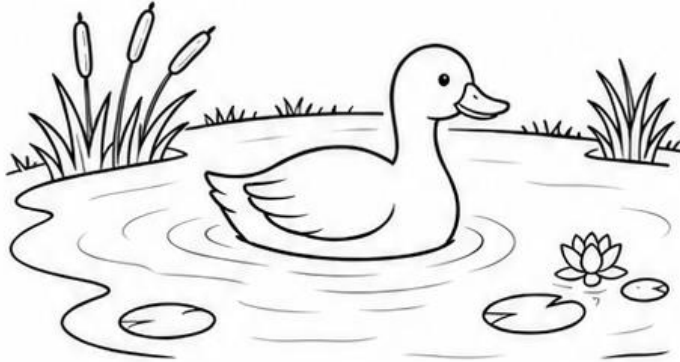
book bag

PICTURE CLUE READER

Name: ANSWERS.

Look at the picture. Circle the word that completes the sentence.

1



The duck is in the ____.

pond

bed

2

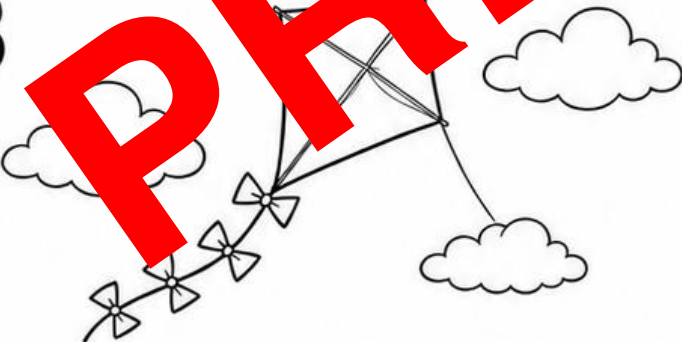


The cat naps on the ____.

mat

log

3



The kite is in the ____.

sky

pond

4

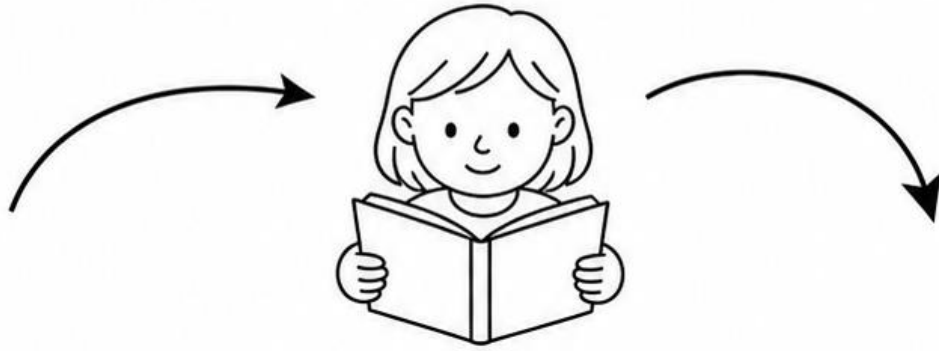


Ben reads a ____.

book

bag

SKIP, THEN RETURN



Name: _____.

Read on. Choose the word that makes sense. Then reread the whole sentence.

1 The frog sat on a ____.

log

/

bus

2 Sam put on his ____.

coat

/

cup

3 Mia petted the ____.

cat

/

car

4 The bird slept in its ____.

nest

/

net

5 Dad read the ____.

book

/

boot

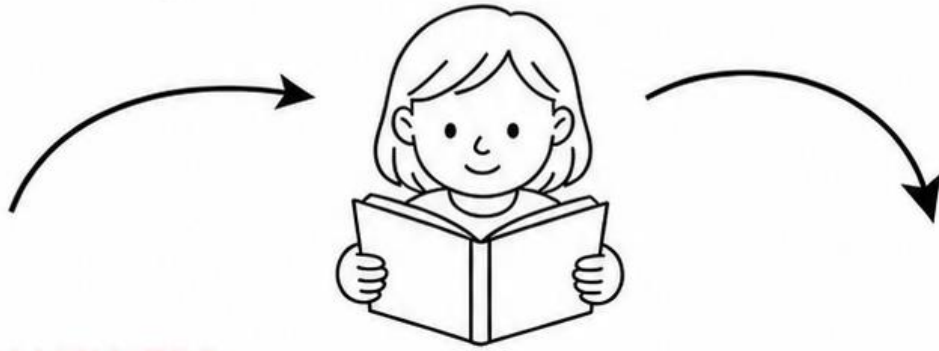
6 The cake is in the ____.

oven

/

pond

SKIP, THEN RETURN



Name: ANSWERS.

Read on. Choose the word that makes sense. Then reread the whole sentence.

1 The frog sat on a ____.

log

/

bus

2 Sam put on his ____.

coat

/

cup

3 Mia petted the ____.

cat

/

car

4 The bird slept in its ____.

nest

/

net

5 Dad read the ____.

book

/

boot

6 The cake is in the ____.

oven

/

pond

REREAD WITH EXPRESSION

Name: _____.



Add . ? or ! Then reread with expression.

1 I found my hat

2 Can you see the frog

3 Look out

4 The dog is in the pond

5 Where is my book

6 We did it

REREAD WITH EXPRESSION

Name: ANSWERS.



Add . ? or ! Then reread with expression.

1 I found my hat

2 Can you see the frog

3 Look out

4 The dog is in the pond

5 Where is my book

6 We did it

CHOOSE A DECODING TOOL

Name: _____.

Read each clue. Circle the tool that will help.

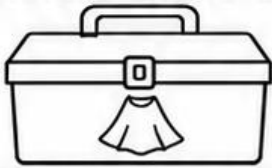
- 1** You see a question mark.



CHECK THE MARKS

LOOK AT THE PICTURE

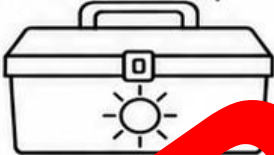
- 2** You read *cap*, but the picture shows a cape.



TRY BOTH VOWELS

ASK FOR HELP

- 3** You can say the sounds in *sun* slowly.



STRETCH THE SOUNDS

SKIP, THEN RETURN

- 4** A picture shows a dog.



LOOK AT THE PICTURE

CHECK THE MARKS

- 5** A word is hard, but the rest of the sentence can help.



SKIP, THEN RETURN

ASK FOR HELP

- 6** You tried your tools and still cannot read the word.



ASK FOR HELP

REREAD

CHOOSE A DECODING TOOL

Name: ANSWERS.

Read each clue. Circle the tool that will help.

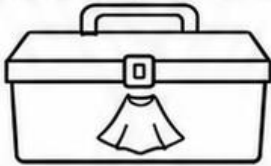
- 1 You see a question mark.



CHECK THE MARKS

LOOK AT THE PICTURE

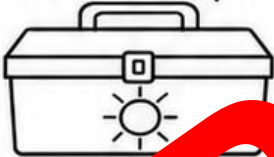
- 2 You read *cap*, but the picture shows a cape.



TRY BOTH VOWELS

ASK FOR HELP

- 3 You can say the sounds in *sun* slowly.



STRETCH THE SOUNDS

SKIP, THEN RETURN

- 4 A picture shows a word and a dog.



LOOK AT THE PICTURE

CHECK THE MARKS

- 5 A word is hard, but the rest of the sentence can help.



SKIP, THEN RETURN

ASK FOR HELP

- 6 You tried your tools and still cannot read the word.



ASK FOR HELP

REREAD

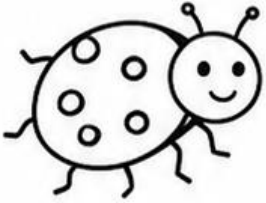
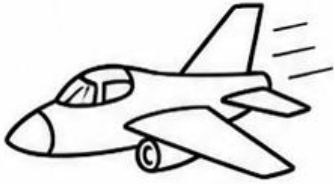
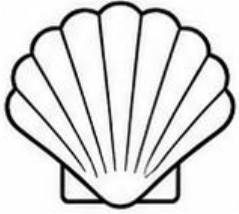
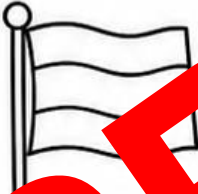
DECODING STRATEGIES ASSESSMENT — PAGE 1

Name: _____

Date: _____

PART A

Stretch the word. Write one sound in each box.

1		bug	
2		jet	
3		shell	
4		flag	

PART B

Circle SHORT or LONG.

1	hop	SHORT	LONG
2	home	SHORT	LONG
3	cut	SHORT	LONG
4	cube	SHORT	LONG

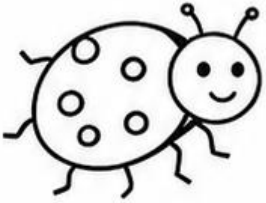
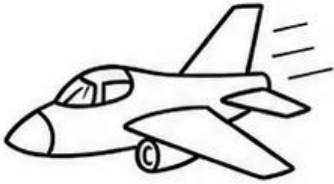
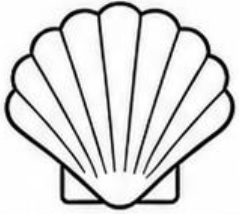
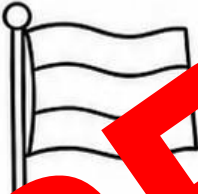
DECODING STRATEGIES ASSESSMENT — PAGE 1

Name: ANSWERS

Date: _____

PART A

Stretch the word. Write one sound in each box.

1		bug	<table border="1"><tr><td>b</td><td>u</td><td>g</td></tr></table>	b	u	g	
b	u	g					
2		jet	<table border="1"><tr><td>j</td><td>e</td><td>t</td></tr></table>	j	e	t	
j	e	t					
3		shell	<table border="1"><tr><td>sh</td><td>e</td><td>ll</td></tr></table>	sh	e	ll	
sh	e	ll					
4		flag	<table border="1"><tr><td>f</td><td>l</td><td>a</td><td>g</td></tr></table>	f	l	a	g
f	l	a	g				

PART B

Circle SHORT or LONG.

1	hop	☒ SHORT	☐ LONG
2	home	☐ SHORT	☒ LONG
3	cut	☒ SHORT	☐ LONG
4	cube	☐ SHORT	☒ LONG

DECODING STRATEGIES ASSESSMENT — PAGE 2

Name: _____

Date: _____

PART A

Read. Circle the word that makes sense.

1 The frog is in the _____. pond / bed

2 Mia put the book in her _____. bag / hat

PART B

Add . ? or !.

3 Can you jump

☐

4 The cat is on the mat

☐

PART C

Tick two tools you used today.

☐

CHECK THE MARKS

☐

LOOK AT THE PICTURE

☐

TRY BOTH VOWELS

☐

SKIP, THEN RETURN

☐

STRETCH THE SOUNDS

☐

REREAD

☐

FIRST SOUND

☐

ASK FOR HELP

DECODING STRATEGIES ASSESSMENT — PAGE 2

Name: ANSWERS

Date: _____

PART A

Read. Circle the word that makes sense.

1 The frog is in the _____. pond / bed

2 Mia put the book in her _____. bag / hat

PART B

Add . ? or !.

3 Can you jump

4 The cat is on the mat

PART C

Tick two tools you used today.

Answers will vary. Tick any two.

☐

CHECK THE MARKS

☐

LOOK AT THE PICTURE

☐

TRY BOTH VOWELS

☐

SKIP, THEN RETURN

☐

STRETCH THE SOUNDS

☐

REREAD

☐

FIRST SOUND

☐

ASK FOR HELP

DECODING STRATEGIES RUBRIC

Student: _____ Date: _____

	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	ACHIEVING	CONFIDENT	EXCEEDING
	with full support	with prompts	independently	flexibly and accurately	explains and applies
Uses letter-sound knowledge	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Blends and stretches words	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Uses meaning and picture clues	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rereads and checks punctuation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Chooses and explains a strategy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Notes:

PREVIEW

Decoding Strategies



What Is Decoding?



Decoding means using what we know about letters, sounds and
meaning to read a word.



PREVIEW

More Than One Clue



PREVIEW

• the sound readers hear.

• the sounds

- the sentence meaning

- the picture

- the punctuation



Meet the Toolkit



PREVIEW



1. Look at the marks
2. Try on vowels
3. Stretch the sounds
4. Start with the first sound
5. Look at the picture
6. Skip, then return
7. Reread
8. Ask for help

Check the Marks



PREVIEW

. to to stop.

? makes our voice ask.

gives our voice energy.



Try Both Vowels



PREVIEW

Try the short vowel sound first.

Then try the long vowel sound.

Choose the word that makes sense.



Stretch the Sounds



PREVIEW

Say each sound slowly.

Keep the sounds close together.

Put them into the whole word.



Start with the First Sound



PREVIEW

Look at the first letter.

Get your mouth ready for that sound.

Make a careful prediction.



Look at the Picture



PREVIEW

Use the picture as a clue.
Then check that the letters match your idea.



Skip, Then Return



PREVIEW

Skip the tricky word for a moment.

Read to the end of the sentence.

Come back with more clues.





Reread

PREVIEW

Try a word again.

Then reread the whole sentence.

Does it sound right and make sense?



Ask for Help



PREVIEW

First, try your letter decoding tools.

If the word is still tricky, ask a teacher or reading partner.





Model: cap or cape?

PREVIEW

Read carefully and read aloud.

The final e changes the vowel sound.

Try with some words and choose the word that makes sense.



Guided Practice: Punctuation



PREVIEW

Can you see the frog —

Choose ?

Read with an asking voice.





Guided Practice: Picture + Meaning

The man in the ____.

pond / bed

the picture and the sentence both point to pond.





Guided Practice: Stretch Blend

PREVIEW

sun

/s/ /u/ /n/

Stretch each sound, then blend: sun.





Guided Practice: Skip + Return

PREVIEW

The blank in the ____.

lead to the end. Return to the blank.

nest makes sense.



Choose the Best Tool



1. A question mark → Check the clues
2. cap or cane → Try both vowels
3. sun → Stretch the sounds
4. A picture → Look at the picture
5. A hard word → Skip, then return
6. Still stuck → Ask for help



Your Turn



PREVIEW

When one tool is not enough, try a second one.

Then reread the whole sentence to check.



Review the Eight Moves



PREVIEW



Check the meaning • Try with vowels
Search the sounds • First sound
Picture clue • Skip, then return
Reread • Ask for help



PREVIEW

Well Done!



PREVIEW

Decoding Strategies Quiz



Question 1



PREVIEW

TRUE OR FALSE

Decoding is using letters, sounds and meaning.





Answer 1

PREVIEW

Decoding joins letters, sounds and meaning together.





Question 2

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which word starts with /m/?

- A. map
- B. sun
- C. dog
- D. pig



PREVIEW

Answer 2



PREVIEW



ap
ap starts with /m/.



Question 3

PREVIEW

SHORT ANSWER

Stretch sun into its sounds.



Answer 3



PREVIEW

/s/ /u/ /n/





Question 4

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which pair shows a short vowel and its long-vowel partner?

- A. cap / cape
- B. dog / dig
- C. sun / sit
- D. fish / fan



Answer 4



PREVIEW

A. c / cape

the final e changes the vowel from short to long.





Question 5

PREVIEW

TRUE OR FALSE

If you hear a skin ticky word, read on, then return.



Answer 5



PREVIEW

JE
adine n can give you more clues.





Question 6

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which mark ends a question?

A. .

B. !

C. ?

D. ,



PREVIEW

Answer 6



PREVIEW



?
A question mark ends a question.



Question 7

PREVIEW

SHORT ANSWER

The frog sat on the ____ by the pond.

Choose log or bed.



Answer 7



PREVIEW



g
he frog sat on the log by the pond.



Question 8

MULTIPLE CHOICE

What is the first sound in fish?

A. /f/

B. /m/

C. /s/

D. /t/



PREVIEW

Answer 8



PREVIEW

A. /f/





Question 9

PREVIEW

TRUE OR FALSE

Asking for help should always be the first move.



Answer 9



PREVIEW

SE

Try your debugging tools first, then ask for help.





Question 10

MULTIPLE CHOICE

I saw _____ in the pond.

- A. frog
- B. bed
- C. hat
- D. cup



PREVIEW

Answer 10



PREVIEW

og

Is a frog in the pond.





PREVIEW

Well Done!

