CHRISTMAS CRYPTOGRAMS

72 JOKES & RIDDLES: 3 DIFFICULTY LEVELS

THE TRIP CLIP

SECRET MESSAGE PUZZLES

Secret Message Puzzles (or Cryptograms) are great for teaching problem solving skills that help in math, science, and computer programming. Kids will also be practicing letter recognition and early reading skills while having fun! This packet has 72 puzzles all at 3 difficulty levels.

You can do these together as a class, use them as a bell ringer or down-time activity, or give them as homework or extra credit.

Christmas Jokes

Secret Message

What do Santa's helpers learn at school?

□□□
1 4 3

□□□ - □□□□ !
3 5 6   2 0 3 1

0=B   1=T   2=A   3=E
4=H   5=L   6=F

Secret Message

What do Santa's helpers learn at school?

T□□
6 4 2

□L□ - A□□T !
2 3 0   5 1 2 6

0=□   1=□   2=□   3=L
4=□   5=A   6=T

Secret Message

What do Santa's helpers learn at school?

□H□
5 3 4

□□□ - □□□□ !
4 1 2   0 6 4 5

0=□   1=□   2=□   3=H
4=□   5=□   6=□

72 Cryptograms Puzzles: Easy, Medium, & Hard

Letter combinations
Problem solving
Code breaking
Perseverance
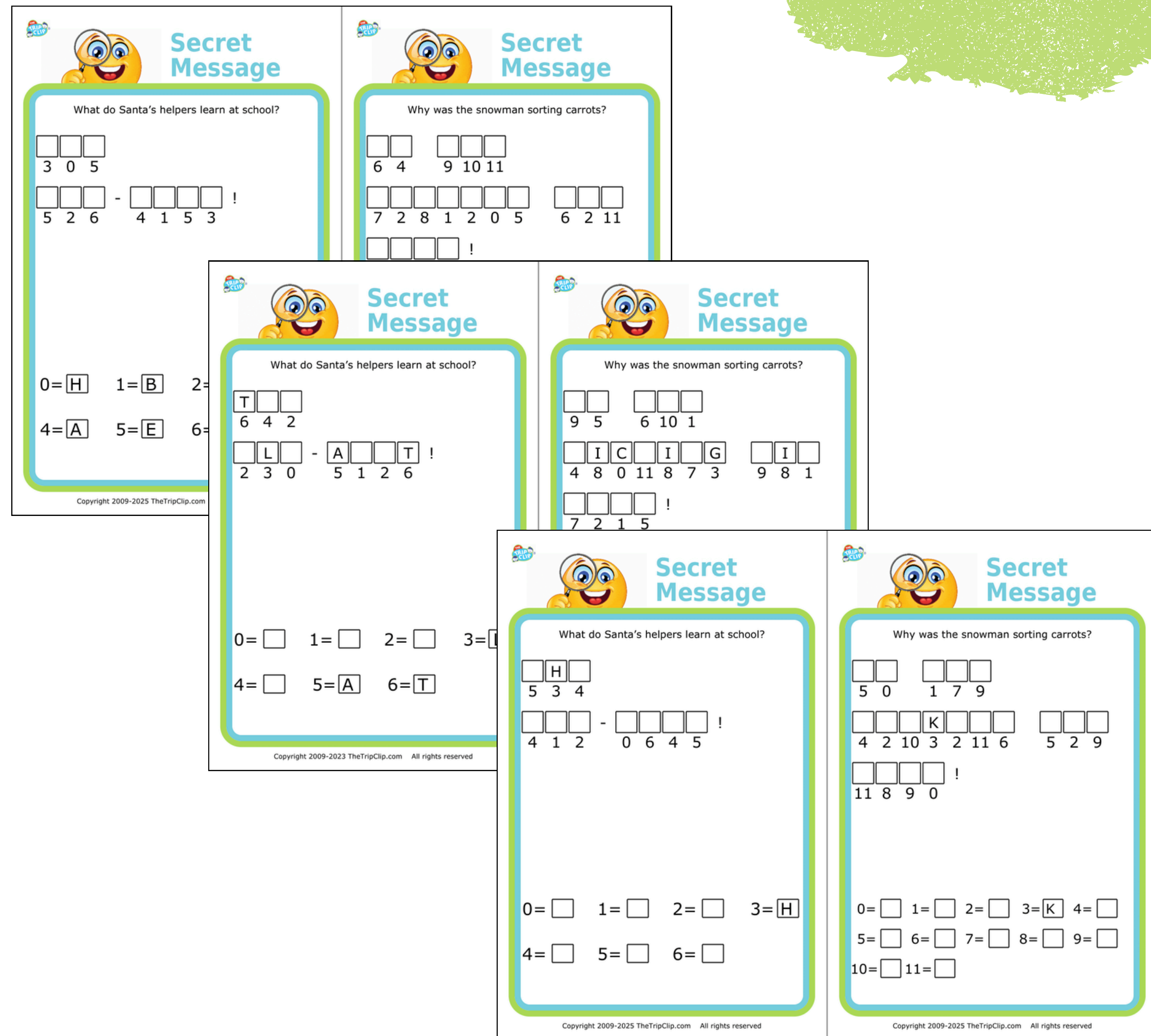
72 jokes in cryptogram form, each on a half sheet of paper

All 72 jokes are available at 3 difficulty levels:

- Beginner puzzles have the full key filled in.
- Medium puzzles have a few letters filled in to help kids get started
- Hard puzzles have just 1 letter hint to start with

What's Included (continued):

- An answer key at the back
- Black and white and A4 (international) versions of all the pages

How to Play:

Kids can use their knowledge of common words and letter combinations to figure out the missing letters and enter them into the key at the bottom. Complete the key to reveal the answer to the riddle.

Secret Message (worksheet 1)

What do Santa's helpers learn at school?

T H E
2 4 0

E L F - A B E T !
0 1 5   3 6 0 2

0=S   1=F   2=O   3=A

4=N   5=W   6=E

Secret Message (worksheet 2)

Why was the snowman sorting carrots?

H E   W A S
5 6   1 10 8

P I C K I N G   H I S
4 3 7 11 3 9 2   5 3 8

N O S E !
9 0 8 6

0=S 1=F 2=O 3=A 4=N

5=W 6=E 7=L 8=K 9=F

10=M 11=G

Secret Message (worksheet 3)

What do Santa's helpers learn at school?

□□□
3 0 5

□□□ - □□□□ !
5 2 6   4 1 5 3

0=H   1=B   2=L   3=T

4=A   5=E   6=F

Secret Message (worksheet 4)

Why was the snowman sorting carrots?

□□ □□□
6 4   9 10 11

□□□□□□□ □□□
7 2 8 1 2 0 5   6 2 11

□□□□ !
0 3 11 4

0=N 1=K 2=I 3=O 4=E

5=G 6=H 7=P 8=C 9=W

10=A 11=S

LEARNING WITH CRYPTOGRAMS

Try the beginner ones first that have the full answer key filled in. Kids will need to transfer the letters from the key at the bottom to the appropriate box at the top by matching up the numbers. When all letters are transferred, the answer to the riddle will be revealed.

For older kids, or kids who are ready for more advanced puzzles, they can move up to the ones with only a few letters entered into the key or a hard version with only a single letter filled in. Kids will need to use their knowledge of common words, letter combinations, and patterns to help them solve the riddle. They'll need to look for clues in the length of the words and in guesses about what the phrase is likely to be. It's a wonderful mix of pattern recognition, spelling, problem solving, and even computer science as they test out possible solutions to see if they work.

You can make even harder puzzles with no clues at all, or you can create your own, custom puzzles on any topic using TheTripClip.com