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CUT, SORT, GLUE

8 cards, 4 in each of 2 groups.
Three sort mats go from a
picture guide to writing.

SCORED THE SAME WAY

Every quick form (page 14) and
the full-deck form (page 15)
prints each picture's group
beside it.

PICTURES, NOT A WORD LIST

The pictures replace the word
list a child cannot yet read;
your scoring rule stays your
call.

Start Here — Three Steps

Ninety seconds of reading. The cards themselves need no setup.



1

Print and cut the cards

Print the color card page (page 6) or the ink-saver page (page 7) on cardstock and cut on the dashed lines. The 8 cards touch, so every cut is one straight line.

Read the note on the card page once: 4 pictures have a second name a child may say, and one of those answers is also another card's own word. How you mark that is decided before the first probe.



2

Sort onto a mat

Pick the mat for the child. Mat 1 (page 9, ●) has a faint picture guide for every card; Mat 2 (page 10, ■) has both groups with no guide; Mat 3 (page 11, ▲) is for writing the words.

Check a finished mat against the answer key (page 12).



3

Probe, log and graph it

Mark a quick form (page 14) or the full-deck form (page 15) as the child sorts.

Copy the correct-out-of-total onto the data log (page 16) the same day, plot the percent on the graph (page 17), and update the caseload page (page 18) on whatever schedule your team reviews data.

Send the family page (page 20) home the same week — it uses the same pictures.

WHAT THIS FILE IS

A fillable PDF with drawn picture cards built in. It works offline, with no account or subscription, and looks the same on every machine that opens it. Print the student mats; type into the teacher pages.

WHAT THIS FILE IS NOT

It is not an editable online slideshow or word-processor document, and it is not a norm-referenced or standardized test. It carries no elicitation, cueing or modeling script; it covers two groups of pictures and how to mark and total the sort.

THE RULE EVERY PAGE IN THIS FILE FOLLOWS

This file does not decide what counts as a correct sort, a criterion, or a typical rate for this sort. Every one of those is a blank you fill in from your own scoring rule and your team's judgment.

IF SOMETHING DOES NOT WORK

A field will not hold my typing. Open the file in Adobe Acrobat Reader (free) or Preview, not a browser tab.

I need a picture this deck does not have. Use the **Ask a Question** tab on the product page; a new picture is a free update where the art honestly shows the thing.

CONFIDENTIALITY, AND WHERE THIS FILE LIVES IN A CASELOAD FOLDER

A filled-in probe form, log or caseload page is a student record: initials only on anything that leaves your hands, first name only on the family page. Print the picture cards once and keep the set in an envelope with this file; the log, graph and caseload page stay in the student's data folder so the trend is the first thing anyone finds.

CUT APART

Detective and Night Sky Cards — Color



name badge



telescope



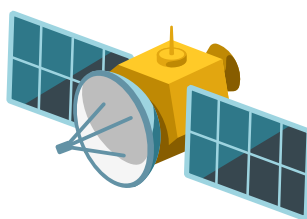
magnifying glass



shooting star



footprints



satellite



paw prints



full moon

CUTTING THESE APART

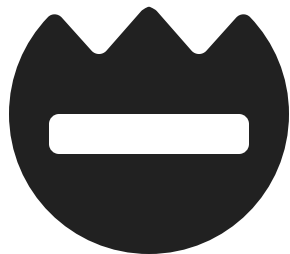
Print on cardstock and cut on the dashed lines: three cuts down and one across, straight lines only. Investigation Tools and Night Sky cards are mixed on the page on purpose, so the page itself gives nothing away. Drawn to hold their shape in full color and stay readable at 1 inch. The same 8 cards in the ink-saver black-and-white set are on page 7.

4 PICTURES A CHILD MAY NAME ANOTHER WAY

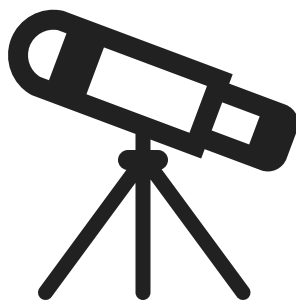
paw prints (footprints), **name badge** (tag), **satellite** (spaceship), **shooting star** (star). One of those answers is also another card's own word: **paw prints** may be said as "footprints", and footprints is a card of its own. Decide once how you mark that, and mark it the same way every session.

CUT APART

Detective and Night Sky Cards — Ink-Saver



name badge



telescope



magnifying glass



shooting star



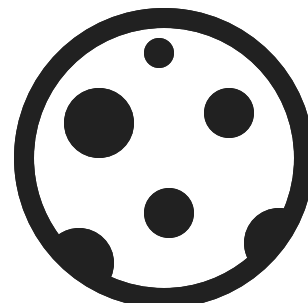
footprints



satellite



paw prints



full moon

CUTTING THESE APART

Print on cardstock and cut on the dashed lines: three cuts down and one across, straight lines only. Investigation Tools and Night Sky cards are mixed on the page on purpose, so the page itself gives nothing away. Pure black outlines, so a photocopier spends the least ink it can. The same 8 cards in the full-color set are on page 6.

4 PICTURES A CHILD MAY NAME ANOTHER WAY

paw prints (footprints), **name badge** (tag), **satellite** (spaceship), **shooting star** (star). One of those answers is also another card's own word: **paw prints** may be said as "footprints", and footprints is a card of its own. Decide once how you mark that, and mark it the same way every session.

SORT MAT

Sort Mat 2: Tools or Night Sky

MY NAME



Glue each card in its group.



building



Investigation Tools



Night Sky



CHECKLIST

Quick Probe Forms A and B

Two forms, 4 pictures each, two from every group. No picture is on both forms: A and B together are all 8 cards. Every picture is scored on the full-deck form, page 15.

STUDENT

DATE

FORM GIVEN (A OR B)

HOW TO MARK EACH PICTURE

Have the child put each picture in a group, or point to the group on a mat. The group each picture belongs in is printed under its word. Mark + if the child chose that group and – for a different group or no choice. What counts as which is this adult's call, written once and reused every session.

ONE PICTURE SHARES ANOTHER CARD'S WORD

paw prints may be said as “footprints”, and footprints is a card of its own. Decide, once, whether that answer counts as the picture shown or as an error, and use the same rule for both forms and the full-deck form.

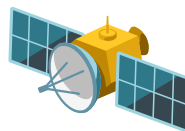
Form A 4 pictures · untimed



telescope
Night Sky

☐ ☐
+ -


name badge
Investigation Tools

☐ ☐
+ -


satellite
Night Sky

☐ ☐
+ -


magnifying glass
Investigation Tools

☐ ☐
+ -

SCORE (CORRECT OUT OF 4)

GROUP THE CHILD CHOSE, WHEN IT WAS WRONG (PICTURE, GROUP)

Form B 4 pictures · untimed



footprints
Investigation Tools

☐ ☐
+ -


shooting star
Night Sky

☐ ☐
+ -


paw prints
Investigation Tools

☐ ☐
+ -


full moon
Night Sky

☐ ☐
+ -

SCORE (CORRECT OUT OF 4)

GROUP THE CHILD CHOSE, WHEN IT WAS WRONG (PICTURE, GROUP)



CHECKLIST

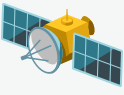
Full-Deck Probe — All 8 Pictures

All 8 cards in deck order, one row each. Mark + or – as on the quick forms, then carry the total to the log (page 16) as correct out of 8. A row left blank was not shown today.

STUDENT

DATE

YOUR RULE FOR + AND –

#	PICTURE	BELONGS IN	RIGHT GROUP? + / –	GROUP THE CHILD CHOSE
1	 name badge	Investigation Tools	☐ ☐	
2	 telescope	Night Sky	☐ ☐	
3	 magnifying glass	Investigation Tools	☐ ☐	
4	 shooting star	Night Sky	☐ ☐	
5	 footprints	Investigation Tools	☐ ☐	
6	 satellite	Night Sky	☐ ☐	
7	 paw prints	Investigation Tools	☐ ☐	
8	 full moon	Night Sky	☐ ☐	

TOTAL CORRECT (OUT OF 8)

PICTURES SHOWN TODAY (IF FEWER THAN ALL)

 NOTES

Sort at Home

Send home the same week these pictures are new in session. No jargon, no percents — the data log already has those.

STUDENT

WEEK OF

FROM

THIS WEEK'S PICTURES (CIRCLE THE ONES WE SORTED)


footprints


name badge


magnifying glass


satellite


telescope


full moon

SOMETHING THAT WENT WELL

TWO MINUTES AT HOME: SORT TOGETHER

Cut a few cards apart and make two piles: things a detective uses and things you see in the night sky. Write down which pile your child chose for any card that was tricky.

WE PRACTICED (INITIAL THE DAY)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

INVESTIGATION OR NIGHT SKY PICTURES WE NOTICED OUTSIDE OF PRACTICE

A flashlight, a badge, a star at bedtime — anything your child pointed out and named.

ANYTHING TO FLAG BEFORE NEXT SESSION

QUESTIONS? BEST WAY TO REACH ME

SIGNATURE (FAMILY), IF YOUR SCHOOL ASKS FOR IT

EXAMPLE

Filled Example

SAMPLE · INVENTED STUDENT

Every number in the read-out is re-counted straight from the table above.

Priya is invented, and so is every mark on this page. Eight quick probes of sorting pictures into Investigation Tools or Night Sky, Forms A and B rotating.

#	DATE	FORM	CORRECT	OUT OF	PERCENT	NOTES
1	9/9	A	2	4	50%	baseline
2	9/16	B	2	4	50%	baseline
3	9/23	A	2	4	50%	baseline
4	9/30	B	3	4	75%	footprints card put in the Night Sky group, marked –
5	10/7	A	3	4	75%	–
6	10/14	B	3	4	75%	–
7	10/21	A	4	4	100%	4 of 4, every card in its group for the first time
8	10/28	B	4	4	100%	4 of 4, every card in its group again

READING THE NUMBERS

Sessions 1–3 (Forms A, B, A) scored 2, 2 and 2 of 4: baseline is the median of the three, 2 of 4, 50 percent. By session 8, Priya scored 4 of 4, 100 percent — a 50 percentage-point rise from baseline. Every percent above is that row's own correct count divided by 4, times 100, rounded to the nearest whole number.

A LINE THIS LOG COULD WRITE

"On picture-sort probes (4 pictures, untimed), Priya sorted 2 of 4 pictures into the right group at baseline in September and 4 of 4 on the most recent probe in October."

WHERE PRIYA WOULD SIT ON THE CASELOAD PAGE

One row: baseline 50 percent, current 100 percent, trend up, decision "continue current plan" — the same numbers this table already shows, carried onto page 18 in one line instead of eight rows.

WHAT THIS EXAMPLE IS NOT

One invented child's eight sessions. It does not predict how quickly any real student will move, and it sets no typical rate for this sort — it exists only to show how the log, the table and the graph read once numbers are actually on them.

THE SESSION-4 NOTE

On session 4 (Form B) the footprints card went in the Night Sky group. The footprints is on Form B, and it belongs in the Investigation Tools group (answer key, page 12), so the row is marked –. It counts against that session's 3 of 4; it is the only error that session.