

FREE PUZZLE

The Case of the Missing Cupcake

AGES 7–12 · 10 MINUTES · 1–6 DETECTIVES

Grandma baked twelve cupcakes for the party. She counted them twice. Twelve.

Ten minutes later there were eleven — and a tiny note on the plate, written in secret code.

Only three suspects were in the kitchen: Uncle Bob (who loves cupcakes), little cousin Mia (who loves frosting), and Biscuit the dog (who loves everything).

> □ □ / □ □ □ / □ □ □ / □ >

THE KEY — each letter lives inside a shape. A dot means the second set.

A – I	J – R (with a dot)	S – V	W – Z (with a dot)
└─┘ A └─┘ B └─┘ C	└─┘ J └─┘ K └─┘ L	└─┘ S └─┘ T	└─┘ W └─┘ X
└─┘ D └─┘ E └─┘ F	└─┘ M └─┘ N └─┘ O	└─┘ U └─┘ V	└─┘ Y └─┘ Z
└─┘ G └─┘ H └─┘ I	└─┘ P └─┘ Q └─┘ R		

Decode the note. Who took the cupcake?

Our answer:

Stuck? Each symbol is one letter. Find the shape in the key — the letter sitting inside is your letter. A dot means the second set of letters.

Solution: The note says THE DOG DID IT. Biscuit left frosting on his nose, so it was probably true anyway.

How a Print a Mystery game works

1. **Download.** You get a ZIP with PDFs for A4 and US Letter. Everything prints in black and white.
2. **Print & cut.** About 20 minutes: labels onto envelopes, puzzle cards into envelopes, prize into a box.
3. **Host.** Read one letter aloud. The kids follow the clues; every answer is the name of the next envelope. Wrong answers open friendly decoys. You give hints only when asked.

Three tips from hosts

- Give the youngest detective an official job: Envelope Opener or Keeper of the Notebook.
- A real 3-digit padlock on the prize box turns the finale into a cheer.
- Hide the envelopes around the house for a treasure-hunt version — same cards, twice the running.

THE FULL CASE

The Midnight Museum

The Case of the Vanished Meteorite

A meteorite has vanished from the museum. Five suspects, seven clues, one thief. Can your detectives crack the case before midnight?

Ages	8–12
Time	45–60 minutes
Puzzles	7 linked puzzles, 3 evidence cards, 5 decoys
Includes	Host guide with hint ladder & answer key, invitations, certificates

printamystery.com/games/midnight-museum

