

Mr. Yee's Mysteries

Read each source below. Then complete the activities on pages 94–95.

Source 1

Mr. Yee said, "Class, I am going to give you a few clues to help you solve the Mystery of the Day. For today's mystery, I am thinking of a letter of the alphabet."

"Is it a K?" shouted Kayla.

"Is it an A?" blurted Keith.

"No," laughed Mr. Yee, "It is neither an A nor a K. Though it can be a vowel, just like the letter A. Oh, and it can be a consonant, just like the letter K."

"How can it be both?" asked Annie.

"Ahh, it sounds like you have uncovered a clue. This letter can be a vowel or a consonant, depending on how it is used in a word. Now I will give you another clue, in the form of an analogy. Here it is: *the letter B is to second as my mystery letter is to penultimate.*"

"That doesn't help," groaned Albert. "I don't what that word means!"

Mr. Yee repeated the word, "Penultimate? Let's see, what could *penultimate* mean? Let me think of other penultimate things. Well, November is the penultimate month on the calendar. And Alaska was the penultimate state to join the United States. To put that next-to-last clue into the form of an analogy: *February is to second as November is to penultimate.*"

The class just stared at Mr. Yee.

"Hmm," he chuckled, "It looks like we have another mystery to solve: the mysterious meaning of the word *penultimate*."

Source 2



State Facts

(The numbers listed in parentheses show Alaska's rank out of the 50 states.)

Population: 710,231* (47th)

Land Area: 663,267 sq. mi. (1st)

Joined U.S.: January 3, 1959 (49th)

Capital City: Juneau

Largest City: Anchorage

* as of 2010

Source 3

Amy checked Clark's homework. As usual, her little brother got every answer right. Tonight, his assignment was to look at a list of words and circle the one that didn't fit in with the others. His teacher also asked him to underline every letter that functioned as a vowel in the list of words.

HOW

WHO

WHAT

WHY

WHEN

YOU

WHERE

Mr. Yee's Mysteries (cont.)

Name: _____

Part 1: Read each idea. Which source gives you this information? Fill in the correct bubble for each source.
(Note: More than one bubble may be filled in for each idea.)

Information	Sources ➡	1	2	3
1. The capital of Alaska is Juneau.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. The letter <i>K</i> is a consonant.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. The letter <i>A</i> is a vowel.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Amy is Clark's sister.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Part 2: Fill in the bubble next to the best answer to each question.

5. Which of Mr. Yee's students shouted "A!"?

- (A) Keith (B) Kayla (C) Amy (D) Albert

6. In Source 3, why did Clark circle the word *YOU*?

- (A) It does not begin with a *WH*. (C) It begins with a vowel.
(B) It is not a question word. (D) It is last on the list.

7. Which of these statements is true?

- (A) The largest city in Alaska is also its capital city.
(B) Alaska is one of the largest U.S. states, but it is the least populated.
(C) Alaska is the largest U.S. state, but it is one of the least populated.
(D) In 2010, about 7 million people lived in Alaska.

8. Which of these analogies is **not** correct?

- (A) *Juneau* is to *Alaska* as *Washington, D.C.* is to *United States*
(B) the *letter A* is to *first* as the *letter B* is to *second*
(C) *Mr. Yee* is to *teacher* as *Kayla* is to *student*
(D) *November* is to *month* as *February* is to *second*

Part 3: Search "Mr. Yee's Mysteries" to find one example of each of the following. Then write the number of the source in which you located this information.

9. a hyphenated word _____ Source #: _____

10. word with more than one *y* in it _____ Source #: _____

Mr. Yee's Mysteries *(cont.)*

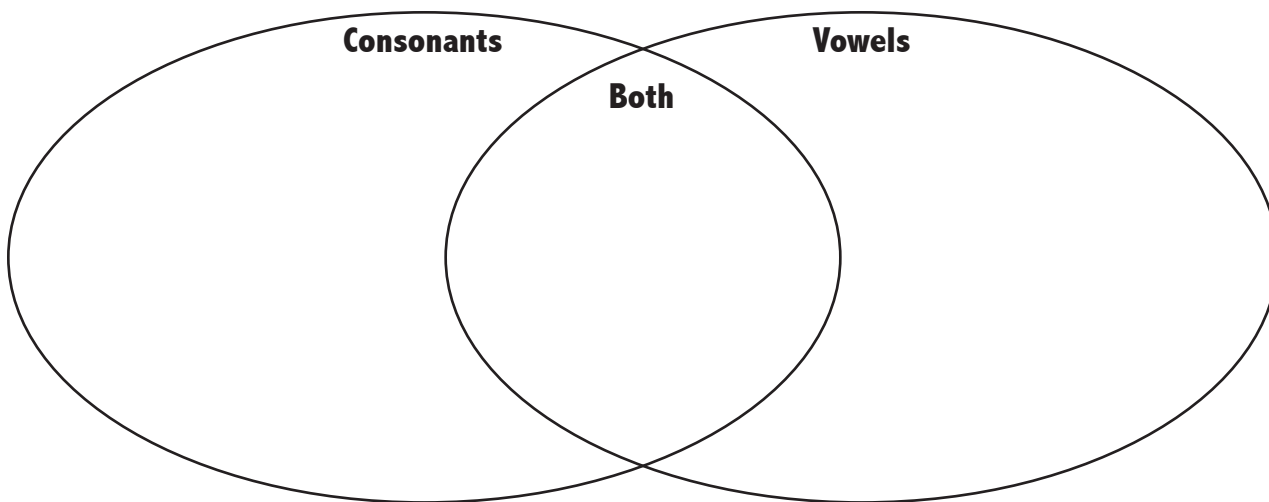
Name: _____

Part 4: Refer back to the sources, and use complete sentences to answer these questions.

- 11.** Mr. Yee's mystery letter is one that can be used as both a vowel and a consonant. Which letter can be both of these things?

Explain your answer. In your answer, give one example of the letter being used as a consonant and another example of the letter being used as a vowel.

- 12.** Use your answer to the above question to fill in the Venn diagram below. In the **Consonants** section, write all of the letters of the alphabet that can be used only as consonants. In the **Vowels** section, write all of the letters that can be used only as vowels. In the **Both** section, write the one letter that can be used as either a consonant or a vowel.



- 13.** What do "November," "Alaska," and the mystery letter have in common? Use this to decipher the meaning of the word *penultimate*. What does the word mean?

Answer Key *(cont.)*

Part 4

- Caesar Rodney was not alive when Delaware joined the Union. We know from Source 4 that Rodney died in 1784. We know from Source 3 that Delaware joined the Union in 1787.
- The first meaning is that the U.S. Mint made money when they produced and released the new quarters for the 50 State Quarters program. The second meaning is that the federal government of the U.S. made money due to seigniorage. In other words, it cost much less for the government to produce and distribute the money (5¢ each) than the value they received for the money (25¢ each).
- Virginia – 2001, Illinois – 2003,
Oregon – 2005, Idaho – 2007

Unit 26. *Mean's Many Meanings* (page 90)

Part 1

- Source 2
- Sources 1 and 2
- Source 4
- Source 3

Part 2

- B
- D
- A
- B

Part 3

The source number is given in parentheses.

- 21 (2)
- hundreds (3)

Part 4

- There are two possible answers: 2, 3, 4, 4, 7 or 1, 4, 4, 5, 6.
- The area labeled “3” is the median. It is located in the middle of the road, and we know from Source 1 that the median is the middle number in a group of numbers. Students might also mention that *median* sounds like *medium*, which is usually the middle size between small and large.
- Accept appropriate responses. The word *mean* should be used to show at least six different meanings.

Unit 27. *Mr. Yee's Mysteries* (page 93)

Part 1

- Source 2
- Source 1
- Sources 1 and 3
- Source 3

Part 2

- A
- B
- C
- D

Part 3

The source number is given in parentheses.

- next-to-last (1)
- mystery (1)

Part 4

- The letter *y* is the one letter that can be used as either a consonant or a vowel. In Source 3, the word *you* shows an example of the letter being used as a consonant. The word *why* is an example of the letter being used as a vowel.
- Consonants: b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, z
Vowels: a, e, i, o, u
Both: y
- All three are the next-to-last items in a series of things. November is the next-to-last month in the calendar year. Alaska was the next-to-last state to join the Union (it was the 49th out of 50), and the letter *y* is the next-to-last letter of the alphabet. The word *penultimate* means “next to last” or “second to last.”

Unit 28. *Two Sets of Directions* (page 96)

Part 1

- Sources 2 and 3
- Source 3
- Source 4
- Source 1

Part 2

- C
- D
- C
- A

Part 3

The source number is given in parentheses.

- clutching (2)
- stragglers (3)

Part 4

- Accept appropriate responses that choose a set of directions and make a case for why that set would be easier to follow.
- Answers will vary. Examples of cardinal directions: Pine Pond is east of Pine Log Inn. Pine Pond is south of Cardinal Road. Examples of intermediate directions: Pine Pond is northwest of Hillside High School. Pine Pond is northeast of Acorn Lane.
- Example of an appropriate answer: First, head southeast on Azul Lane. Next, head south on Oro Boulevard. After that, go east on Arc Lane. Finally, turn south onto Hillside Drive.