Garden Mail Mystery

HOST ONLY - preparation and story

Includes answers. Keep these pages with an adult.

The birthday team has arrived, but one important part of the celebration is missing. Deliver five lost letters before the garden party begins. Collect five named badge digits, then use the final sheet to finish your mission. All the clues you need are printed here. Work together and ask for a hint whenever you want.

1. Print one player pack and two prop sheets per team. Keep all host and hint pages with an adult.

2. Put clue pages 1-5 at the table. Place the final sheet face down until the five badges are collected.

3. Share pencils and choose a reader, recorder and path finder. Swap jobs after each clue.

Players: 4; teams: 1. Print one player and prop set per team. Invitations and certificates: 4 each.

No locks, purchases or cutting required. Keep all clues at a low table. Scissors are optional and for adults only.

Garden Mail Mystery

HOST ONLY - solution guide

1. Envelope: 5

The matching card has both circle and dots; matching just one property is insufficient.

2. Petals: 4

Align each position in strip A with the same position in strip B. Count every unequal pair once.

3. Sprout: 6

Add 2 to the final printed number. The allowed rule is stated on the sheet.

4. Path: 6

Move exactly one orthogonal square per arrow; copy only the value at the endpoint.

5. Leaf: 3

Reflection pairs column 1 with 4 and column 2 with 3. Add the marked left cell and its reflected right cell.

6. Final: 46536

grid-placement: Petals > Path > Envelope > Leaf > Sprout. Keep leading zeroes.

Garden Mail Mystery

HOST ONLY - timeline and paper check

3 minutes: Read the opening story and explain the badges.

5 minutes: Solve Envelope; offer one hint at a time.

5 minutes: Solve Petals; offer one hint at a time.

5 minutes: Solve Sprout; offer one hint at a time.

5 minutes: Solve Path; offer one hint at a time.

5 minutes: Solve Leaf; offer one hint at a time.

5 minutes: Combine the badges on the final sheet.

2 minutes: Read the ending and award certificates.

Paper completion: check each badge against the solution guide, then check the final code. No device is required.

Mission complete! Garden Mail Mystery is ready for its birthday celebration. Thank your team for sharing ideas and helping one another.

Duration and ages are estimates. Adjust pace and offer help for your group.

Garden Mail Mystery

Player clue 1: Envelope | Team 1

Welcome, birthday explorers! Deliver five lost letters before the garden party begins. Find five badge numbers. Use them on the last page. You can help each other and ask me for hints.

Find the card with the same shape AND marking as the target. Copy its digit.

TARGET: circle, dots

○	circle / dots - digit 5
△	triangle / dots - digit 7
○	circle / plain - digit 0

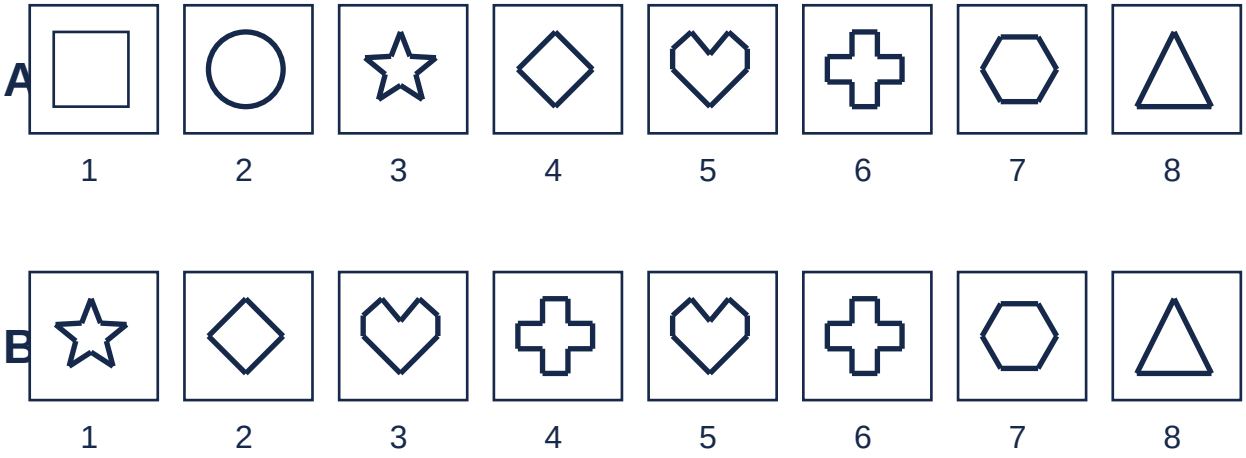
Envelope badge: _____

Garden Mail Mystery

Player clue 2: Petals | Team 1

Compare the two strips position by position. How many positions have different shapes? Count positions, not shapes.

Compare matching numbered positions.



Do not count title, labels, or boxes as differences.

Petals badge: _____

Garden Mail Mystery

Player clue 3: Sprout | Team 1

The rule is: add 2 each time. What comes next? Write the next number.

Start after badges: Envelope.

RULE: add 2 each time

0	**2**	**4**	**?**

Sprout badge: _____

Garden Mail Mystery

Player clue 4: Path | Team 1

Start at S. Follow each arrow by one square in the listed order. Record the number on your final square.

Start after badges: Envelope.

S: 7	**8**	**9**	**0**
1	**2**	**3**	**4**
5	**6**	**7**	**8**

right > right > down > left > down

One arrow = one square. S = start.

Path badge: _____

Garden Mail Mystery

Player clue 5: Leaf | Team 1

Imagine folding the right half onto the left along the dashed line. At the starred square, add the two numbers that meet. No cutting or folding is needed.

Start after badges: Petals.

0	**1**	**2**	**2**
*** 2**	**0**	**3**	**1**

Fold RIGHT half onto LEFT. * marks the target.

Paper-only alternative: pair 1 with 4 and 2 with 3.

Leaf badge: _____

Garden Mail Mystery

Player clue 6: Final | Team 1

Place each badge digit in its named slot. Follow the printed reading order and join the five digits.

A2: Envelope ?	**B2: Petals** ?	**C2: Sprout** ?
D2: Path ?	**E2: Leaf** ?	

READ SLOTS IN THIS ORDER:

B2 > D2 > A2 > E2 > C2

Final badge: _____

Need help? Ask your host for one hint at a time.

Garden Mail Mystery

Hint cards - level 1 (spoilers; keep with host)

1. Envelope

Compare two properties.

2. Petals

Compare the first square in A with the first square in B.

3. Sprout

Every step adds 2.

4. Path

Start at the top-left S square.

5. Leaf

The middle dashed line is the fold.

6. Final

Keep the five badge results visible. Every number has a badge name.

Garden Mail Mystery

Hint cards - level 2 (spoilers; keep with host)

1. Envelope

First find the same shape, then compare the marking.

2. Petals

Mark a pair only if its shapes differ.

3. Sprout

Start with the last number, not the first.

4. Path

One arrow means one square, even if the next square looks interesting.

5. Leaf

The outside right square meets the outside left square.

6. Final

Use the order, slots, route or matching columns printed on this page.

Garden Mail Mystery

Hint cards - level 3 (spoilers; keep with host)

1. Envelope

Reject cards that agree on only one property.

2. Petals

Count the marks, not the total number of printed shapes.

3. Sprout

Add once more; do not skip a step.

4. Path

Trace each move with a pencil and mark the final square.

5. Leaf

Find the mirror partner of the marked square and add their two printed values.

6. Final

Start with the Petals badge, then follow the printed rule.

Garden Mail Mystery

Team 1 badge record (no cutting needed)

Write a digit beside each badge as you solve its clue.

Envelope: _____

Petals: _____

Sprout: _____

Path: _____

Leaf: _____

Reader: reads the clue. Recorder: writes the digit. Path finder: traces routes. Swap roles every clue.

Garden Mail Mystery

Team 1 paper unlock card

Our five badges are ready. We used the final sheet to find this code:

_____

Host: compare this with your solution guide. When it matches, read the ending and celebrate.

No physical lock or prize is required. You may draw a celebration star on this card.

Garden Mail Mystery

You're invited to a birthday mystery!

Join Birthday Explorer for Garden Mail Mystery.

Deliver five lost letters before the garden party begins.

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Bring your curiosity. Paper and pencils are provided. Work together, share ideas and solve six clues.

Designed for ages 6-8. Estimated 30-40 minutes.

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Garden Mail Mystery

Birthday Mystery Explorer

Presented to Birthday Explorer

Team member: _____

For completing Garden Mail Mystery with curiosity, teamwork and kindness.

Mission complete! Garden Mail Mystery is ready for its birthday celebration. Thank your team for sharing ideas and helping one another.

Date: _____

Host signature: _____

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