

The Pit and the Pendulum Digital Escape Room

Teacher Instructions

Thank you for your purchase! Your students are going to love solving puzzles in this 360° digital escape room. This activity is designed to work for a laptop, tablet, or smart phone. Students will solve a series of clues based on the short story "The Pit and the Pendulum" by Edgar Allan Poe. Please do not share this link with other educators as it is my copyrighted work and against my terms of licensing. You can purchase additional licenses in my [TpT store](#).

Have your students work independently or in teams (I personally love teamwork)! Included in this zip folder are: the full text of the story, teacher instructions with answer keys, student instructions, the master lock graphic organizer, reflection sheet, and printable copies of Clues 1-6. It is optional to print the clues, as some students might find it easier to complete the puzzles on paper. While using this resource, you must have a wi-fi connection and the ability to access the following sites: [kuula.co](#) and Google Forms (your students do not need a Google account).

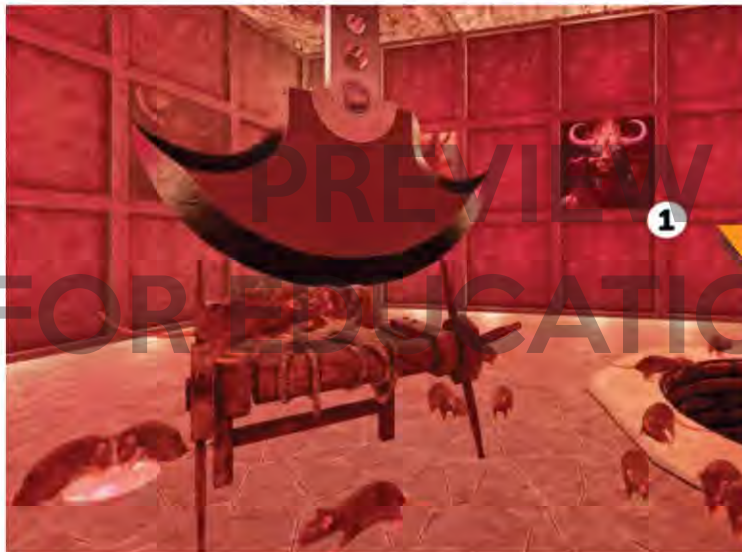
The room is a 360 degree panoramic photo, so the clues are all around the digital room. You must click your mouse and hold down the cursor to scan the entire room. Drag the arrow in whichever way you'd like to go. If you are using a smart phone, simply swipe your finger.

No password is required to gain access to the room. If this happens to you, it means your district's firewall is blocking the program and you should contact your IT department.

Escape Room

Suggested Lesson Procedure:

1. Share the directions (PDF) with your students digitally. The student directions include the student link to the escape room. Verbally review your expectations with your students.
2. Put students in groups of 2-3.
3. Set a timer for 45 minutes (or longer) using a classroom timer.
4. Upon entering the room, have your students start by clicking the "1" button (shown below). There are 6 clues, all labeled by numbers. For every clue students figure out, they must record their answers on their Master Lock graphic organizer (paper).
5. After solving the 6 clues, they will enter their answers into the master lock google form. This is mandatory for students to "escape." They can find the link to the master lock google form located on the trap door in the digital room when they are ready to escape.
6. Once time is up, ask students to fill out a reflection sheet to get their feedback (optional). If you find that most of your students did not finish, you can extend the activity and allow them to continue the next day.





The Master Lock



Clue Number	Answers
Clue #1	
Clue #2	
Clue #3	
Clue #4	
Clue #5	
Clue #6	

CLUE 1

The darkness closes in, no light to see,
A pendulum swings, coming closer to me.
I hear the rats, their claws in the stone,
In this cold dungeon, I'm trapped, alone.

Six clues I must solve, my mind must be clear,
For each holds the answer to end this fear.
The walls creep closer, their grip tightens fast,
I need to escape, my strength won't last.

The rats—they scurry—drawn to the meat,
Hunger consumes them, what WON'T they eat!?
Despite their madness, I push away my fright.
The pendulum vibrates—I am bound so tight.

In the depths of delirium, I hear my heart beat.
I tremble with fear, but I won't retreat.
For in every damp crevice, in every slick stone,
The power of knowledge has grown and grown.

The faces of demons, their eyes filled with hate,
But they cannot break what the mind can create.
For hunger may gnaw, and terror may thrive,
Yet hope is a power that keeps me alive.

Tyranny will not win, this battle is mine,
The pendulum swings, but I see the design.
Each cut of its blade, each pulse of the walls,
Cannot crush the power that knowledge recalls.

In the dark pit, where shadows loom,
I feel the pressure, and resist the doom.
As the pendulum descends, the rats befriend me.
I will not surrender, I will get myself FREE!

The French are coming, their presence is near,
If I wait too long, I will be killed right here.
I won't wait in shadows, relying on chance,
For the power of freedom demands I advance.

The path to the light is where I will tread,
With each clue I uncover, I'll forge ahead.
Hope is the primary source of my power.
Can I solve the master lock within the hour?

Count how many times each of the words in the yellow box (below) are used in the poem. Then use the numbers from top to bottom as your answer for Clue 1.

For example, your answer will look something like this: 214531

____ Pendulum
____ Fear
____ Power
____ Hunger
____ Rats
____ Hope



CLUE 2

Place the correct missing letters into the diagram to form words reading left to right. Then read the filled in letters from top to bottom to reveal your clue. The missing words are all directly related to the story.

					S		O	O	N	E	D		
					C		A	M	B	E	R		
					D		R	K	N	E	S	S	
S	I	N	I	S		E	R						
	B	U	R	N		N	G						
I	N	Q	U	I		I	T	I	O	N			
E	X	E	C	U		I	O	N					
					S		A	R	P				
					S	U	F	F		R	I	N	G
							R	V	E	N	O	U	S
R	E	V	O	L		T	I	O	N				
					S		E	E	L				
					S		R	I	E	K			
P	R	I	S			N	E	R					
			H	O	R		O	R					
			S	U		P	E	N	S	E			
			R	E		I	G	I	O	N			
			D	E		T	H						
E	N	C	L	O		U	R	E					
			T	O	R		U	R	E				
			D	U		G	E	O	N				
I	M	A	G	I	N		T	I	O	N			
			V	E	R		I	N					
			D	R		A	D						

A	
B	
C	
D	6
E	
F	
G	20
H	7
I	1
J	
K	
L	
M	
N	
O	18
P	10
Q	
R	26
S	
T	
U	
V	22
W	
X	
Y	9
Z	

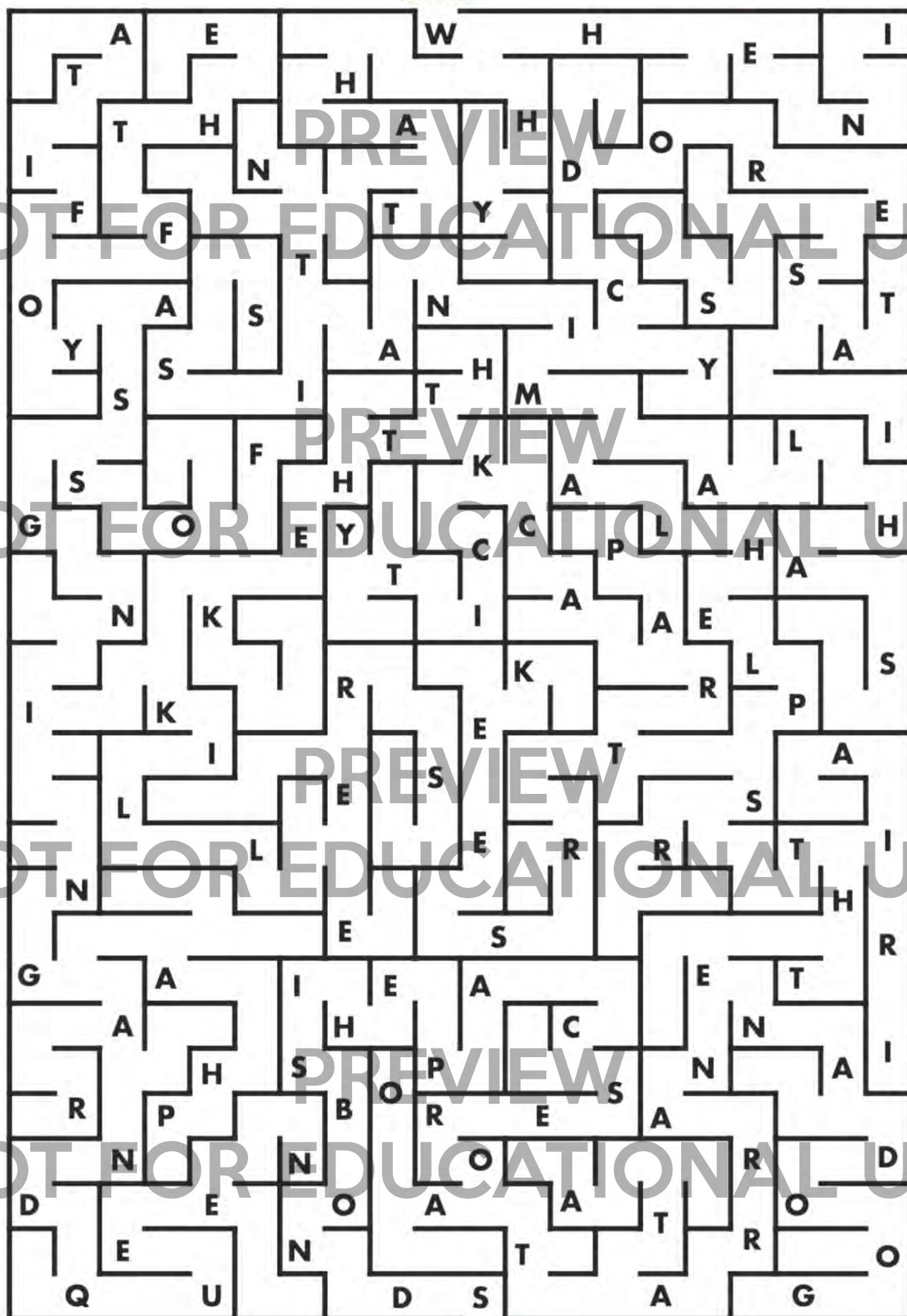
CLUE 3

Each letter corresponds to a number and vice versa. Complete the partially finished phrase by guessing the missing letters. As you guess letters correctly, you will find that the puzzle becomes easier and easier.

I P R E V I E W
 $\frac{1}{13}$ $\frac{24}{3}$ $\frac{16}{8}$ $\frac{7}{1}$ $\frac{3}{24}$ $\frac{8}{19}$
 I Y I
 $\frac{1}{13}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{9}{9}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{24}{24}$
 P I
 $\frac{23}{1}$ $\frac{10}{8}$ $\frac{3}{7}$ $\frac{1}{19}$ $\frac{24}{20}$
 I H
 $\frac{1}{11}$ $\frac{23}{19}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{24}{24}$ $\frac{19}{20}$
 R R O R
 $\frac{24}{24}$ $\frac{3}{26}$ $\frac{26}{26}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{18}{18}$ $\frac{26}{26}$
 I G
 $\frac{11}{11}$ $\frac{19}{19}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{24}{24}$ $\frac{20}{20}$
 H D
 $\frac{7}{7}$ $\frac{19}{19}$ $\frac{21}{21}$ $\frac{6}{6}$
 P I V ?
 $\frac{13}{13}$ $\frac{3}{3}$ $\frac{10}{10}$ $\frac{8}{8}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{22}{22}$ $\frac{19}{19}$

CLUE 4

START



FINISH

CLUE 5

a	b	c	d	e	f
g	h	i	j	k	l
m	n	o	p	q	r

s	t
w	x
y	z



The Pit and the Pendulum

Clue #6

Take all your answers (letters only), in order, and use that for Clue #6 in the master lock. For example, your final answer will look something like this: cbacb.

1) What point of view is the story told?

- a. Third Person Limited
- b. First Person
- c. Third Person Objective

2) What does the pit symbolize?

- a. Hell and suffering
- b. Hope and salvation
- c. Knowledge and wisdom



3) What does the pendulum symbolize?

- a. Secrets and the natural desire to lie
- b. Innocents who have been injured or destroyed through contact with evil
- c. The passage of time and impending death

4) What clue suggests that the narrator is being watched after escaping the pendulum?

- a. The pit suddenly disappears
- b. The walls of the prison heat up and begin to close in on him
- c. Soup and a glass of milk appear for the narrator

5) What is one theme from the story?

- a. Disorientation makes you a difficult target for enemies.
- b. Surrendering control of your life to others is the best way to succeed.
- c. Death is inevitable, but the will to survive is powerful.

Name:

Class:

THE PIT AND THE PENDULUM

Digital Escape Room Reflection

1. Were you able to escape the room before the time was up?

2. What was your favorite part about the escape room?

3. What was the biggest challenge you encountered in the escape room?

4. Was there anything you found too confusing or too difficult to solve?

5. Would you like to do more escape rooms in the future? Explain.

6. Is there anything you would change about the activity today to enhance your experience?

7. If you worked in a group, how did all of the group members work together? Did everyone participate? Explain.