

Silent Letters



twinkl



Aim

- To investigate, spell and read words with silent letters.



What Are Silent Letters?

Some letters in words do not make a sound, they are silent.

Silent letters are **letters** that you can't hear when you say the word, but that are there when you write the word.

There are silent letters in some English words because over hundreds of years, we have changed how we pronounce these words, but have kept the spelling.

The spelling tells us how the word used to be pronounced.

For example: knock. In the past, people used to say the word with the k sounded out at the beginning! That would sound very strange to us today!



How Can We Remember How to Spell Words with Silent Letters?

Sometimes we can forget to include letters when they can't be heard in words or if they are difficult to hear.

One way to remember the spelling of words with silent letters is to stress the silent letter when you say the word to yourself.

Break the word up and decide how you say it to yourself, to help you remember the spelling.

For example: Wednesday has a silent d.
You could remember how to spell it by saying Wed-nes-day.

Task: Choose some words with silent letters and try breaking them up in this way, to help you remember how to spell the word correctly with the silent letter.



Can You Find the Silent Letters in These Words?

knife

wrapper

wrong

write

gnome

wreck

crumb

lamb

knuckle

know

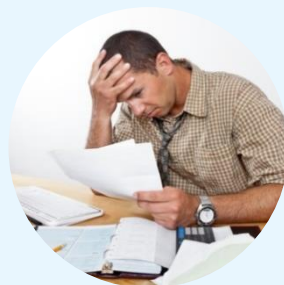
A silent **b** occurs after **m**, before **t**.



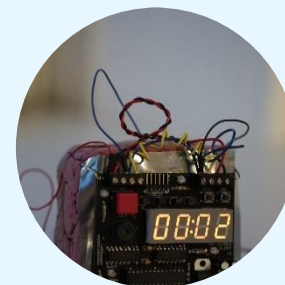
lamb



thumb



debt



bomb

What other words do you know with a silent **b**?

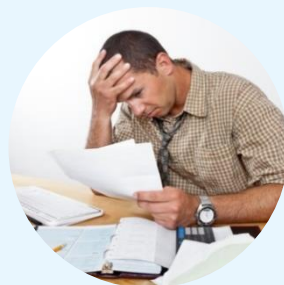
A silent **b** occurs after **m**, before **t**.



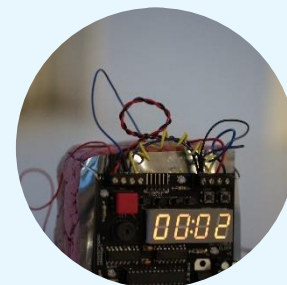
lamb



thumb



debt



bomb

What other words do you know with a silent **b**?

succum**b**

aplom**b**

wom**b**

tom**b**

com**b**

bom**b**

thum**b**

clim**b**

lam**b**

crum**b**

num**b**

dum**b**

dou**b**t

de**b**t

A silent **k** and a silent **g**
are found before **n**.



gnome



gnat



knee



knife

What other words do you know with a silent **k** or **g**?

A silent **k** and a silent **g** are found before **n**.



gnome



gnat



knee



knife

What other words do you know with a silent **k** or **g**?

knew

knit

knuckle

sign

knight

gnarl

knowledge

assign

knickers

reign

champagne

kneel

foreign

knobbly

knock

campaign

knead

design

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A silent **l** follows
vowels **a**, **o** and **u**.



calf



salmon



chalk



yolk

What other words do you know with a silent **l**?

A silent **l** follows
vowels **a**, **o** and **u**.



calf



salmon



chalk



yolk

What other words do you know with a silent **l**?

pal**l**m

cal**l**m

hal**l**f

wal**l**k

cal**l**f

fol**l**k

tal**l**k

yol**l**k

chal**l**k

A silent **w** often goes before **r**.



wrapper



wrestle



wrist



wreck

What other words do you know with a silent **w**?

A silent **w** often goes before **r**.



wrapper



wrestle



wrist



wreck

What other words do you know with a silent **w**?

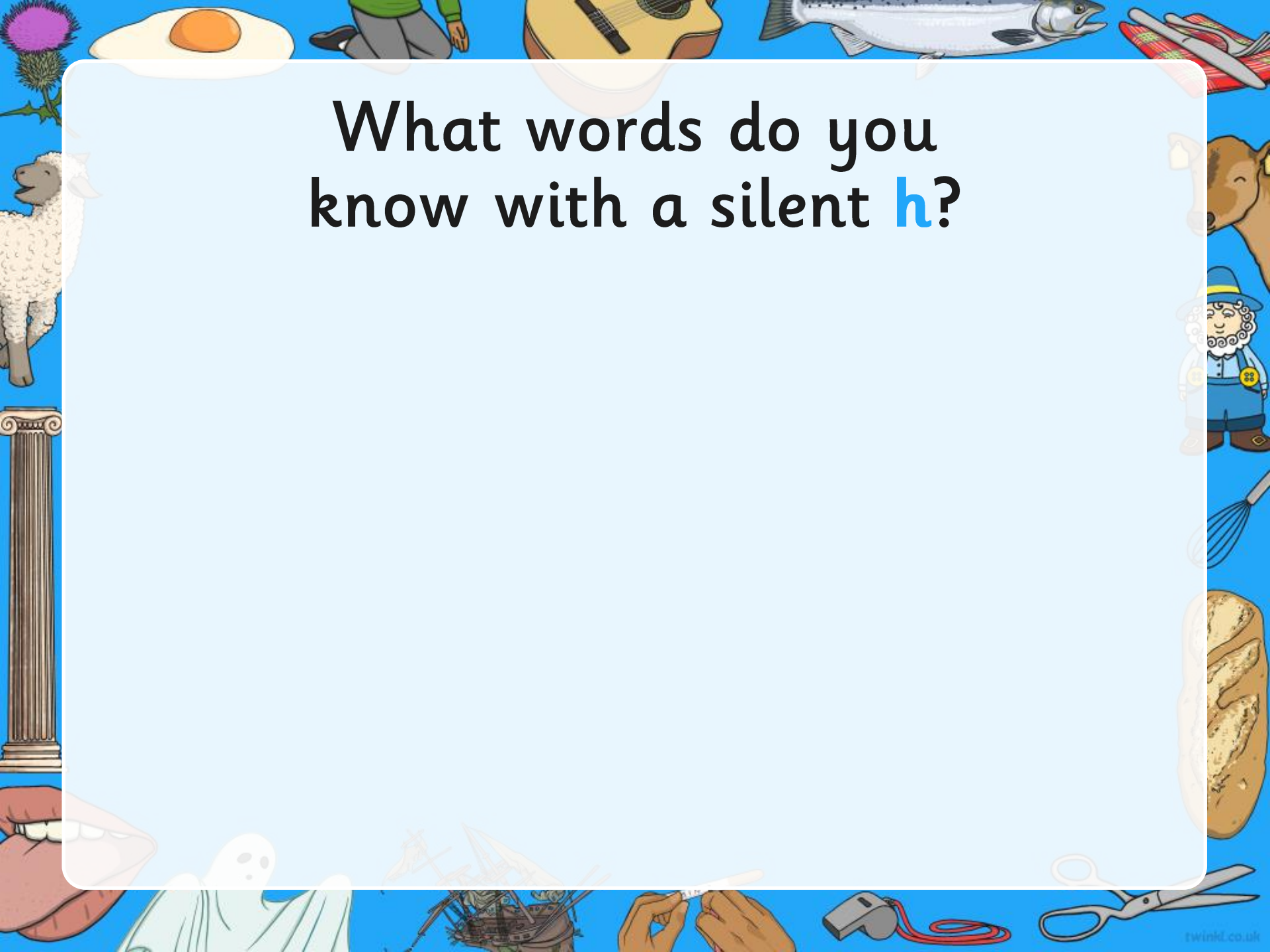
write

wrinkle


wriggle

wrong

wrote



What words do you know with a silent **h**?



What words do you know with a silent **h**?

r**h**ubarb

honest

ex**h**austing

r**h**yme

chemist

ac**h**e

chaos

g**h**ost

stomach**h**

w**h**isk

tech**h**nology

monarch**h**

chrome

arch**h**aeology

w**h**ite

ech**h**o

spag**h**etti

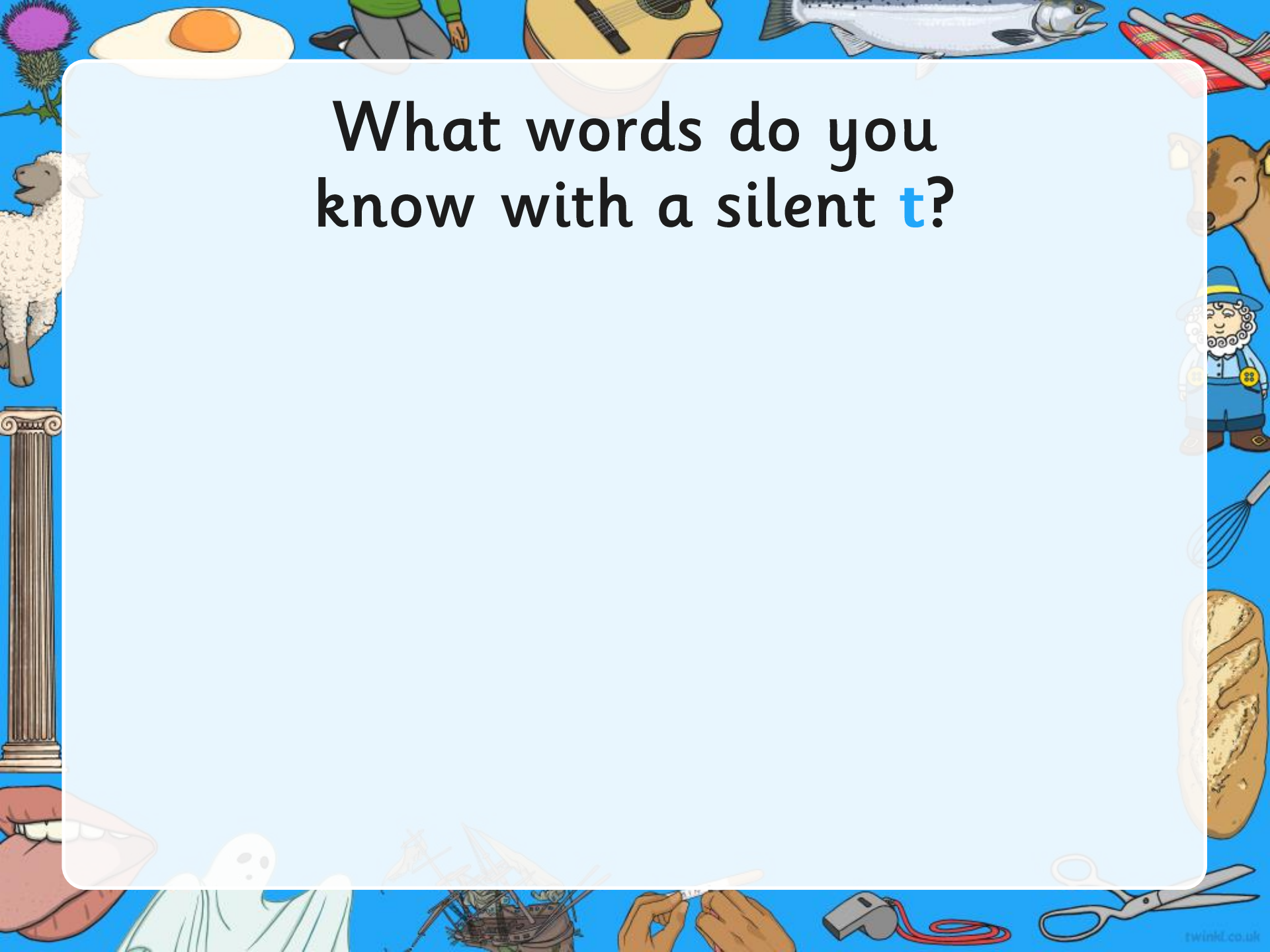
w**h**isky

hour


veh**h**icle

Sik**h**

orch**h**id



What words do you know with a silent **t**?



What words do you know with a silent **t**?

castle

ricochet

rappor**t**

listen

soften

this**t**le

gourmet

ast**h**ma

whis**t**le

fasten

wa**t**ch


depot

ballet


of**t**en

wrest**l**e

moisten



What words do you know with a silent **u**?



What words do you know with a silent **u**?

bag**u**ette

b**u**ilt

silho**u**ette

g**u**itar

g**u**est

tong**u**e

colleag**u**e

dialog**u**e

disg**u**ise


g**u**inea pig

circ**u**it

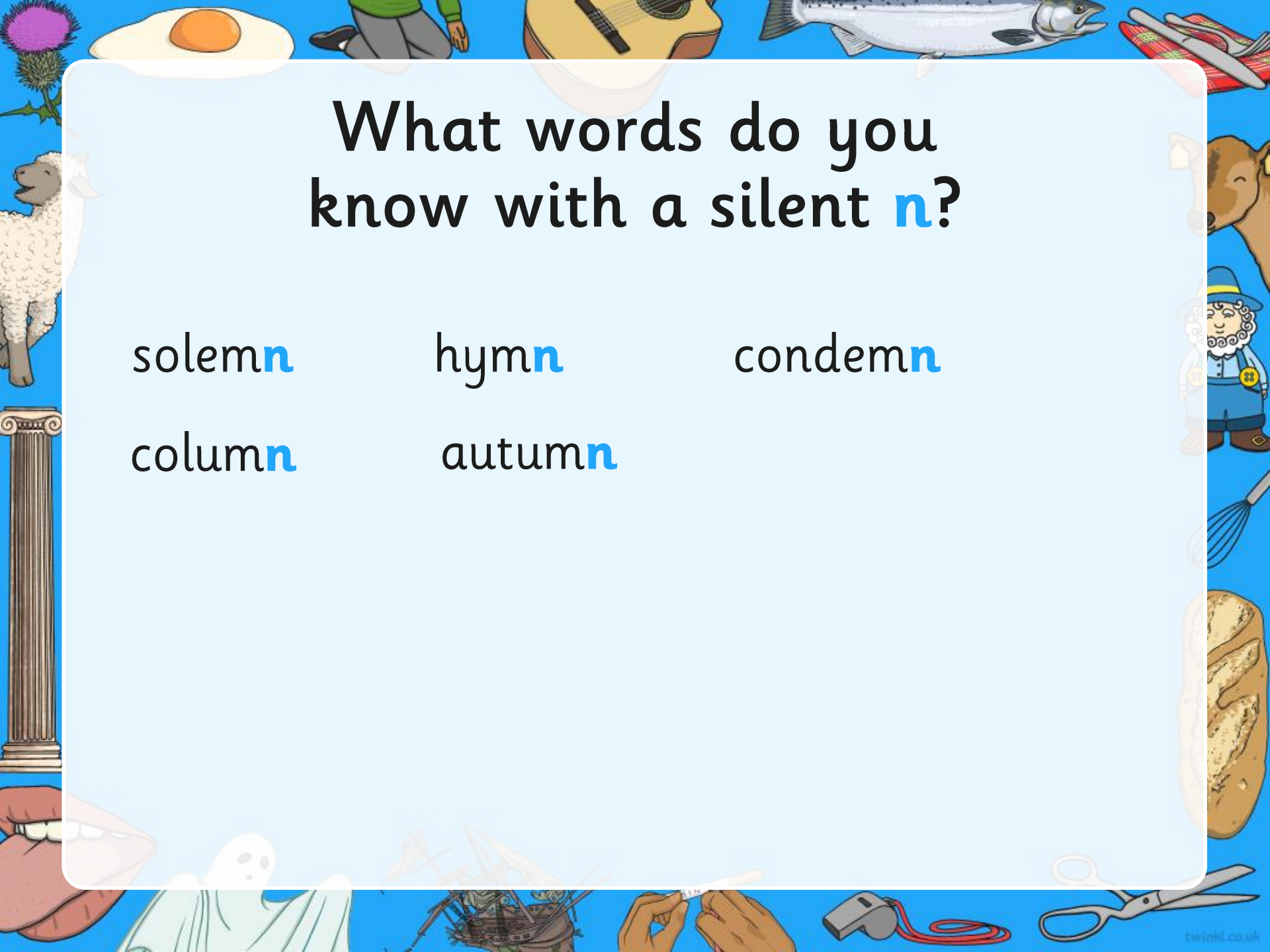
g**u**ess

g**u**ilty

b**u**oy



What words do you know with a silent **n**?



What words do you know with a silent **n**?

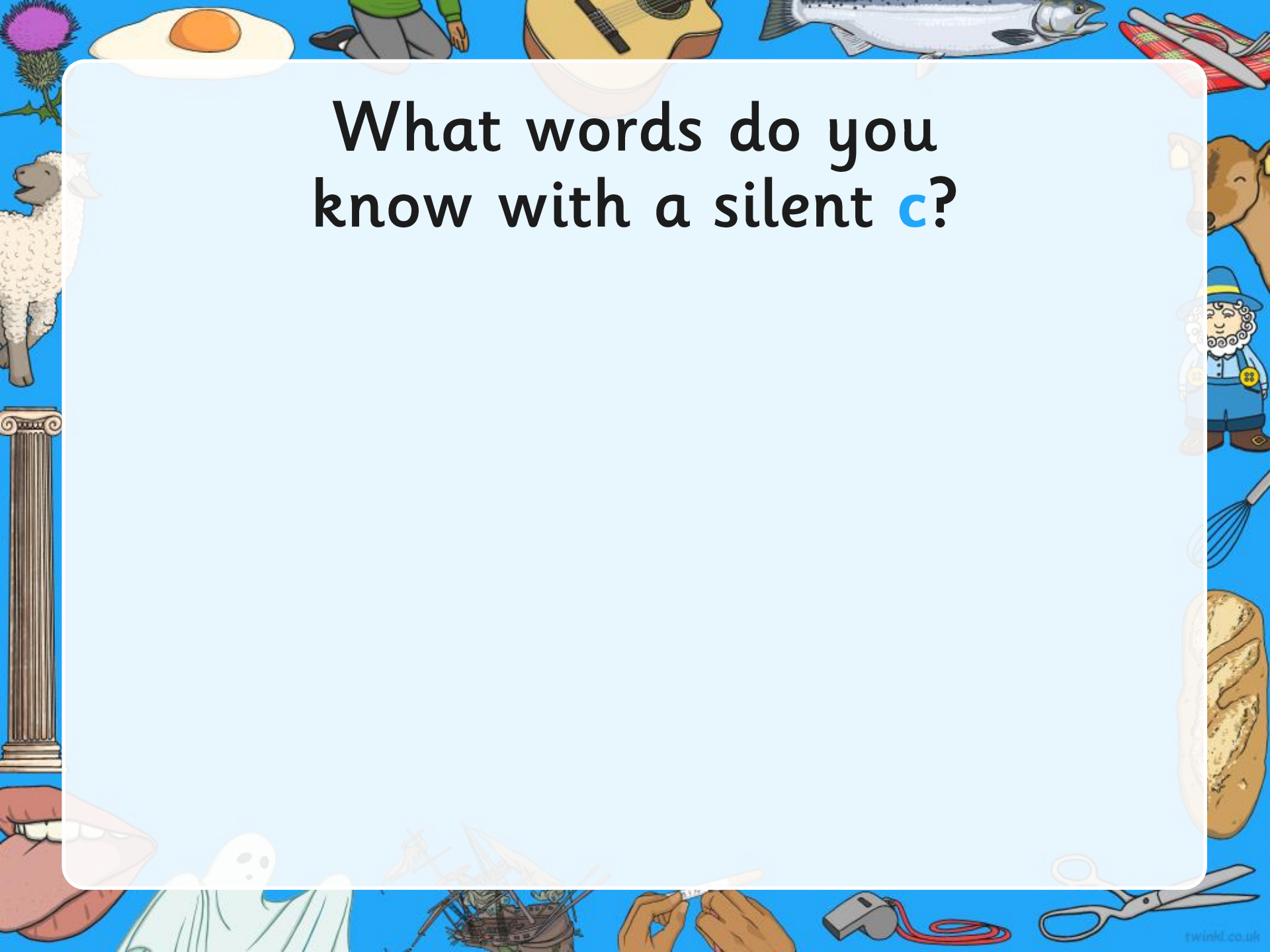
solemn**n**

hym**n**

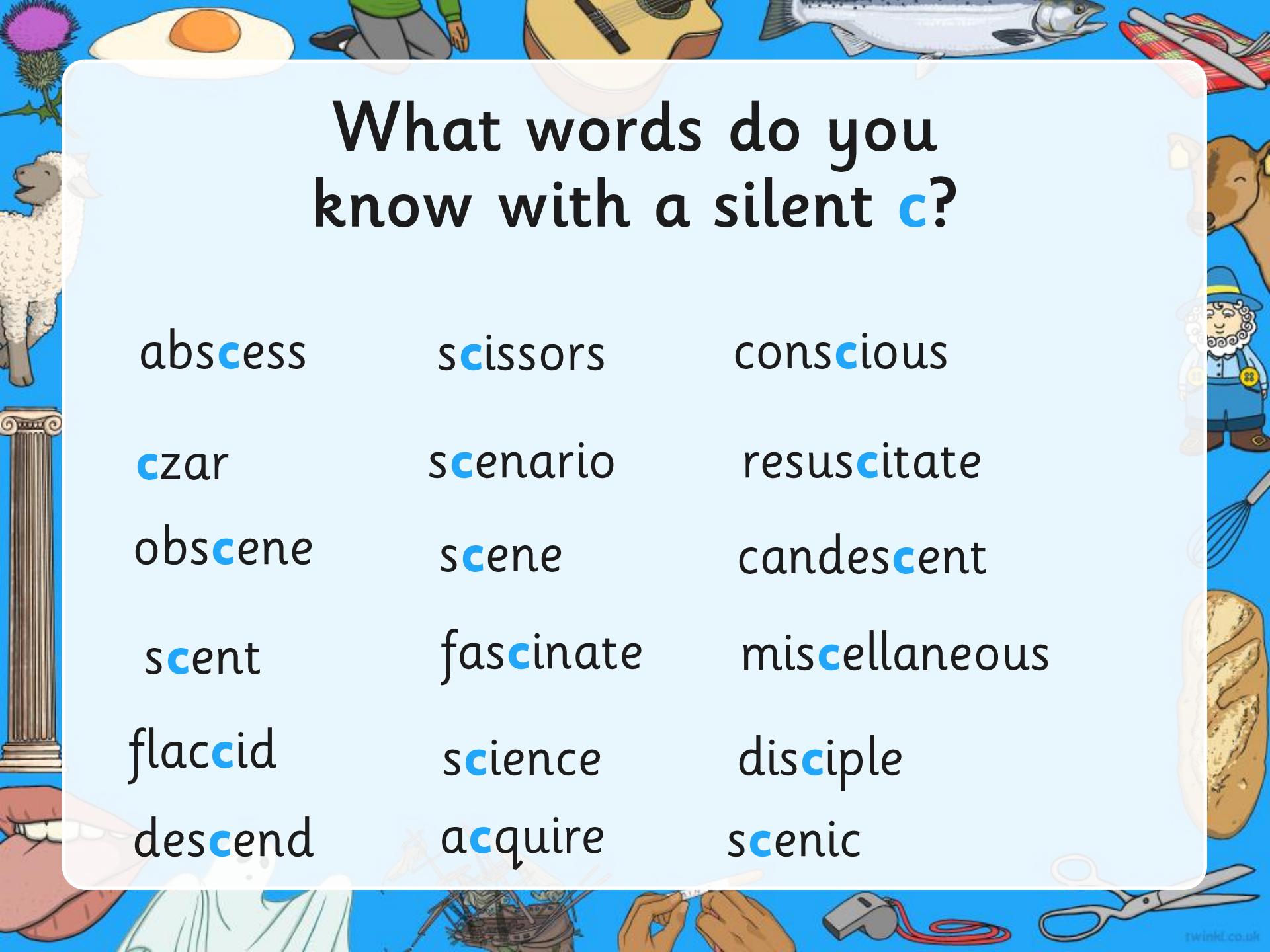
condem**n**

column**n**

autum**n**



What words do you know with a silent **c**?



What words do you know with a silent **c**?

abs**c**ess

sc**i**ssors

consc**i**ous

cz**a**r

sc**e**nario

resusc**i**tate

obs**c**ene

sc**e**ne

candes**c**ent

sc**e**nt

fasc**i**nate

misc**e**llaneous

flacc**i**d

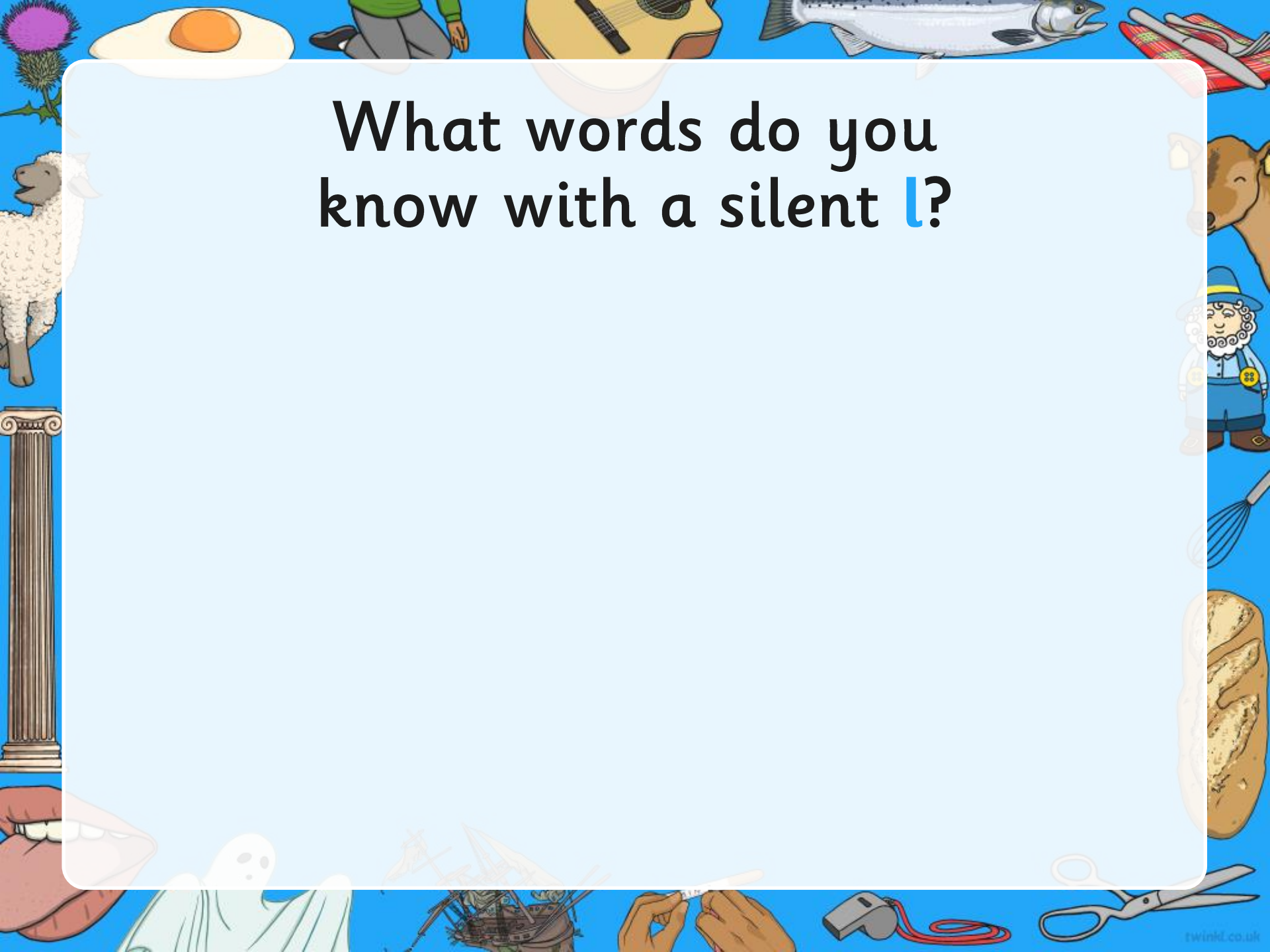
sc**i**ence

disc**i**ple


desc**e**nd

ac**q**uire

sc**e**nic



What words do you know with a silent **l**?



What words do you know with a silent **l**?

shou**ld**

col**o**nel

cou**ld**

Norfo**lk**

Suffo**lk**

wou**ld**

yol**k**

ch**al**k

Stockho**l**m

ha**l**f

Lincol**n**

ca**l**m

a**l**ms

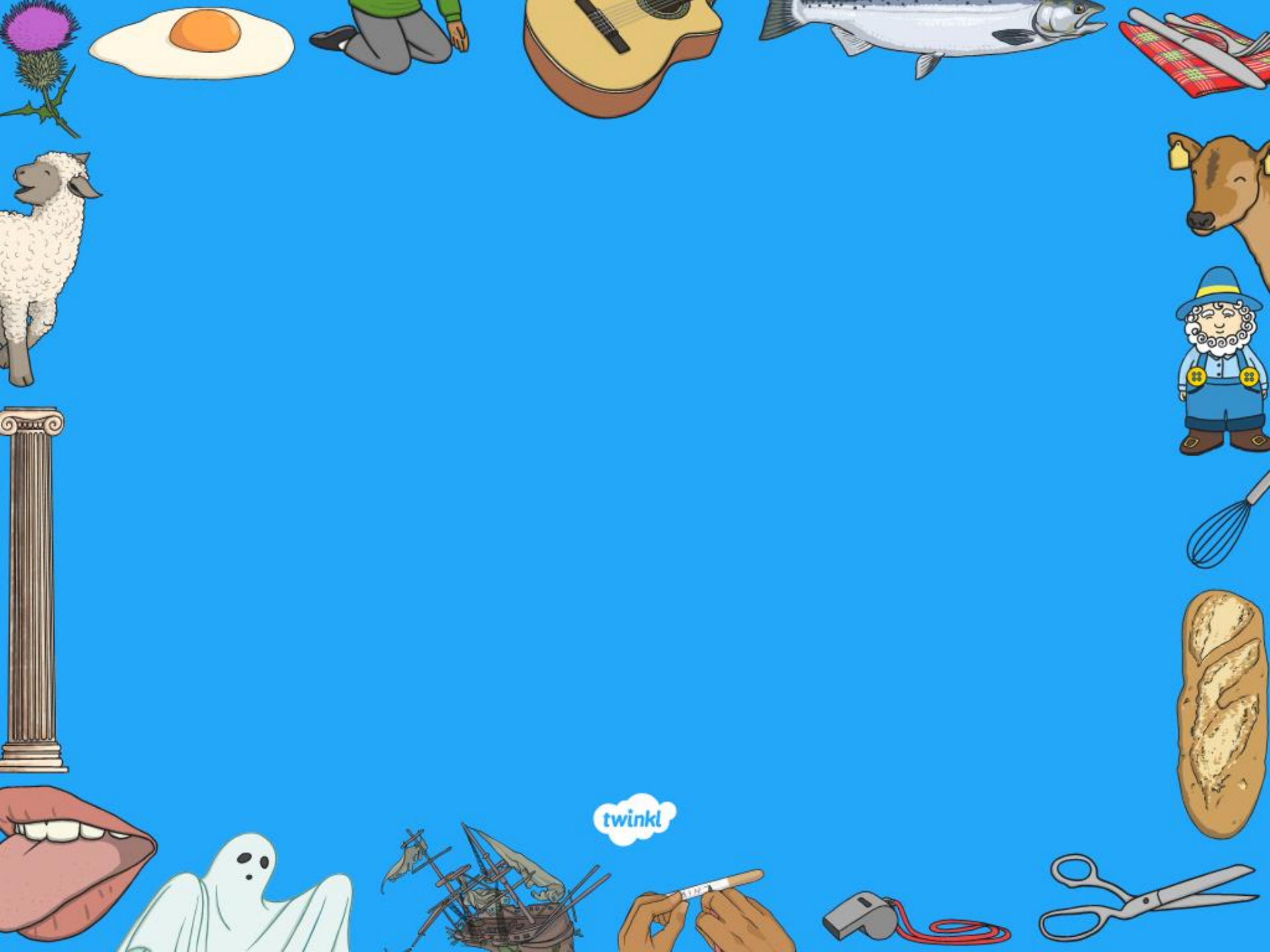
Fal**k**land

cau**l**k

sal**l**mon

pa**l**m

ha**l**ve



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