



Case of the Comet Snatcher

Grade 3 math · Rounding, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division · Reading level grades 3-4

Detective: _____ Date: _____

One quiet morning on Orbit-9, the alarm bells rang. Commander Vega was gone, and a trail of glowing comet dust led down the hall. Junior Detective, the station needs you to find the Comet Snatcher fast.

1. Solve each math problem. The answer is a number, and the letter beside it is what that number stands for.
2. In the clue boxes, write that letter in every box showing the same number, then read the secret clue.
3. Use each clue to cross suspects off the list. The one suspect left at the end is the culprit!

My answer: the Comet Snatcher is _____

Possible suspects

Cross off a row as each clue rules it out. The one left at the end is the culprit.

NAME	SHIP CLASS	GADGET	PILOT TYPE	HULL COLOR	WEAKNESS
Finn Cole	Moon Hopper	warp jump	girl	red hull	cold air
Milo Stark	Nebula Scout	laser drill	girl	green hull	loud alarm
Astra Quinn	Rocket Cruiser	tractor beam	boy	blue hull	loud alarm
Nina Vox	Comet Racer	ion blast	boy	blue hull	cold air
Iris Blake	Nebula Scout	ion blast	girl	green hull	loud alarm
Bram Hale	Rocket Cruiser	tractor beam	girl	red hull	cold air
Hugo Frost	Nebula Scout	laser drill	girl	green hull	cold air
Polly Vance	Nebula Scout	tractor beam	boy	blue hull	cold air
Theo Pike	Comet Racer	ion blast	boy	red hull	cold air
Vega Sol	Comet Racer	cloak shield	girl	red hull	bright flashlight
Captain Orla	Star Glider	ion blast	boy	green hull	bright flashlight
Mara Bell	Nebula Scout	cloak shield	boy	blue hull	cold air
Stella Mora	Comet Racer	warp jump	boy	red hull	loud alarm
Jett Marsh	Comet Racer	cloak shield	girl	green hull	cold air
Zuri Kane	Nebula Scout	laser drill	girl	blue hull	loud alarm
Nova Reyes	Star Glider	tractor beam	boy	green hull	cold air
Otis Lang	Moon Hopper	warp jump	girl	green hull	cold air
Rocco Dunn	Comet Racer	tractor beam	girl	blue hull	cold air
Cosmo Ray	Moon Hopper	ion blast	girl	green hull	cold air
Dex Calder	Comet Racer	laser drill	girl	green hull	cold air
Pilot Zane	Comet Racer	warp jump	boy	blue hull	loud alarm

CLUE 1

You check the station's radar screen, but it only shows rounded distances. Round the readings to see which gadget the snatcher could not have used.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.

T	O	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	I	T	Y					
S	E	C	U	R	I	T	Y	I	N	F	O	R	M	A	T	I	O	N

Round 587 to the nearest hundred $\rightarrow$ **T**

Round 749 to the nearest hundred $\rightarrow$ **N**

Round 4,653 to the nearest thousand $\rightarrow$

Round 2,352 to the nearest thousand $\rightarrow$ **L**

Round 335 to the nearest hundred $\rightarrow$ **U**

Round 2,673 to the nearest thousand → **K**

Round 3,966 to the nearest thousand $\rightarrow$ **0**

Round 8,190 to the nearest thousand → **H**

Round 43 to the nearest ten $\rightarrow$ **V**

Round 7,315 to the nearest thousand $\rightarrow$ **S**

Round 32 to the nearest ten → **A**

Round 851 to the nearest hundred → **D**

Round 9,328 to the nearest thousand → **C**

Round 93 to the nearest ten $\rightarrow$ **E**

Scratch space:

CLUE 2

Addition

Supplies are scattered in the launch bay. Count and add up the clues to learn if the pilot was a boy or a girl.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.

A									A		A				
522	690	224	447	688	392	281	281	281	522	690	522	488	224	582	521

317	224	521	776	447	600	521	392	392

$339 + 183 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$140 + 177 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{P}}$

$246 + 201 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$253 + 523 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

$145 + 136 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$93 + 131 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$338 + 352 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$

$416 + 272 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$320 + 262 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$

$216 + 176 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$207 + 393 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$

$326 + 162 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{G}}$

$157 + 364 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{L}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Subtraction

Commander Vega left a note about the fight. Subtract to find out which weakness she used to push the snatcher back.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.

V																			
469	752	529	650	254	759	564	529	316	294	864	650	587	594	252	755	294	316		
587	759	825	534	650	755	270													

$674 - 205 = \square \rightarrow \text{V}$

$479 - 227 = \square \rightarrow \text{W}$

$487 - 233 = \square \rightarrow \text{F}$

$703 - 116 = \square \rightarrow \text{C}$

$1152 - 397 = \square \rightarrow \text{I}$

$735 - 171 = \square \rightarrow \text{U}$

$1221 - 357 = \square \rightarrow \text{B}$

$608 - 79 = \square \rightarrow \text{G}$

$1006 - 181 = \square \rightarrow \text{L}$

$717 - 123 = \square \rightarrow \text{K}$

$1126 - 367 = \square \rightarrow \text{O}$

$753 - 103 = \square \rightarrow \text{A}$

$856 - 322 = \square \rightarrow \text{D}$

$598 - 304 = \square \rightarrow \text{T}$

$523 - 253 = \square \rightarrow \text{R}$

$932 - 180 = \square \rightarrow \text{E}$

$319 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \text{H}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 4

Multiplication facts (1-12)

Tiny chips of hull paint sit in rows on the door. Multiply the rows to match the snatcher's hull color.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.

G																	
42	56	12	12	2	14	21	45	45	108	88	144	2	81	36	88	132	
45	12	24	81	15	2	81	14	12	84	15	15	56					

$6 \times 7 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{G}}$

$7 \times 12 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$1 \times 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$9 \times 9 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$3 \times 5 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

$11 \times 8 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$7 \times 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{U}}$

$9 \times 5 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{L}}$

$7 \times 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$9 \times 12 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{P}}$

$7 \times 8 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$

$9 \times 4 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$

$12 \times 12 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$4 \times 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$12 \times 11 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$8 \times 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 5**Division facts (1-12) - the last clue**

Now you split the leftover comet dust into equal piles. Divide to lock in the snatcher's exact ship class.

First solve each problem. Then find each answer in the numbered list below and cross that sentence out. One sentence will be left - that is exactly what the villain did!

Step 1 - solve these:

$60 \div 10 = \boxed{}$

$25 \div 5 = \boxed{}$

$90 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$120 \div 10 = \boxed{}$

$8 \div 8 = \boxed{}$

$20 \div 10 = \boxed{}$

$108 \div 12 = \boxed{}$

$20 \div 5 = \boxed{}$

$96 \div 12 = \boxed{}$

$36 \div 12 = \boxed{}$

$77 \div 7 = \boxed{}$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain roars in on a rocket cruiser, then fires an ion blast.
2. The villain slips by on a star glider, then warp jumps away.
3. The villain slips by on a star glider, then grabs with a tractor beam.
4. The villain sneaks in on a nebula scout, then grabs with a tractor beam.
5. The villain bounces in on a moon hopper, then fires an ion blast.
6. The villain bounces in on a moon hopper, then warp jumps away.
7. The villain sneaks in on a nebula scout, then drills the door lock.
8. The villain sneaks in on a nebula scout, then fires an ion blast.
9. The villain bounces in on a moon hopper, then grabs with a tractor beam.
10. The villain zooms in on a comet racer, then drills the door lock.
11. The villain slips by on a star glider, then drills the door lock.
12. The villain roars in on a rocket cruiser, then warp jumps away.

Answer Key

Case of the Comet Snatcher

Culprit: Hugo Frost

Nebula Scout · laser drill · girl · green hull · cold air

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 18 → Clue 2 10 → Clue 3 7 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Rounding): "THE VILLAIN CANNOT USE A CLOAK SHIELD"

Round 587 to the nearest hundred = 600 (T) · Round 749 to the nearest hundred = 700 (N) · Round 4,653 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (I) · Round 2,352 to the nearest thousand = 2000 (L) · Round 335 to the nearest hundred = 300 (U) · Round 2,673 to the nearest thousand = 3000 (K) · Round 3,966 to the nearest thousand = 4000 (O) · Round 8,190 to the nearest thousand = 8000 (H) · Round 43 to the nearest ten = 40 (V) · Round 7,315 to the nearest thousand = 7000 (S) · Round 32 to the nearest ten = 30 (A) · Round 851 to the nearest hundred = 900 (D) · Round 9,328 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (C) · Round 93 to the nearest ten = 90 (E)

Clue 2 (Addition): "A WITNESS SAW A GIRL PILOT FLEE"

$339 + 183 = 522$ (A) · $140 + 177 = 317$ (P) · $246 + 201 = 447$ (T) · $253 + 523 = 776$ (O) · $145 + 136 = 281$ (S) · $93 + 131 = 224$ (I) · $338 + 352 = 690$ (W) · $416 + 272 = 688$ (N) · $320 + 262 = 582$ (R) · $216 + 176 = 392$ (E) · $207 + 393 = 600$ (F) · $326 + 162 = 488$ (G) · $157 + 364 = 521$ (L)

Clue 3 (Subtraction): "VEGA FOUGHT BACK WITH COLD AIR"

$674 - 205 = 469$ (V) · $479 - 227 = 252$ (W) · $487 - 233 = 254$ (F) · $703 - 116 = 587$ (C) · $1152 - 397 = 755$ (I) · $735 - 171 = 564$ (U) · $1221 - 357 = 864$ (B) · $608 - 79 = 529$ (G) · $1006 - 181 = 825$ (L) · $717 - 123 = 594$ (K) · $1126 - 367 = 759$ (O) · $753 - 103 = 650$ (A) · $856 - 322 = 534$ (D) · $598 - 304 = 294$ (T) · $523 - 253 = 270$ (R) · $932 - 180 = 752$ (E) · $319 - 3 = 316$ (H)

Clue 4 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "GREEN HULL PAINT WAS LEFT ON THE DOOR"

$6 \times 7 = 42$ (G) · $7 \times 12 = 84$ (D) · $1 \times 2 = 2$ (N) · $9 \times 9 = 81$ (T) · $3 \times 5 = 15$ (O) · $11 \times 8 = 88$ (A) · $7 \times 3 = 21$ (U) · $9 \times 5 = 45$ (L) · $7 \times 2 = 14$ (H) · $9 \times 12 = 108$ (P) · $7 \times 8 = 56$ (R) · $9 \times 4 = 36$ (W) · $12 \times 12 = 144$ (I) · $4 \times 3 = 12$ (E) · $12 \times 11 = 132$ (S) · $8 \times 3 = 24$ (F)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 7 → Hugo Frost

$60 \div 10 = 6$ · $25 \div 5 = 5$ · $90 \div 9 = 10$ · $120 \div 10 = 12$ · $8 \div 8 = 1$ · $20 \div 10 = 2$ · $108 \div 12 = 9$ · $20 \div 5 = 4$ · $96 \div 12 = 8$ · $36 \div 12 = 3$ · $77 \div 7 = 11$