



The Case of the Missing Giant Cupcake

Grade 1 math · Addition, Subtraction, Word problems, Skip counting, Missing addends · Reading level grades 1-2

Detective: _____ Date: _____

Oh no! The bakery is in shock. The Giant Cupcake is gone right before the big town party! We need to help the Head Pastry Chef find the Cupcake Burglar before the party starts.

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 Cupcake Burglar is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	BAKING TOOL	SUPER GEAR	SCOOPING HAND	CHEF HAT	WEAKNESS
Sweet Zoe	Frosting Blaster	Cookie Shield	Left-handed scoop	Pink Chef Hat	Sour Candy
Chef Amaury	Glaze Spray	Gummy Boots	Right-handed scoop	Pink Chef Hat	Sour Candy
Sweet Ava	Whisk Shield	Sugar Cape	Right-handed scoop	Purple Chef Hat	Sour Candy
Chef Duff	Cherry Launcher	Sugar Cape	Left-handed scoop	Green Chef Hat	Cold Milk
Sweet Sam	Whisk Shield	Gummy Boots	Left-handed scoop	Purple Chef Hat	Cold Milk
Baker Paul	Cherry Launcher	Sparkle Dust	Right-handed scoop	Pink Chef Hat	Sour Candy
Baker Adriano	Whisk Shield	Sparkle Dust	Left-handed scoop	Purple Chef Hat	Salty Pretzel
Sweet Dan	Sprinkle Cannon	Gummy Boots	Left-handed scoop	Purple Chef Hat	Salty Pretzel
Chef Jacques	Sprinkle Cannon	Sparkle Dust	Right-handed scoop	Pink Chef Hat	Sour Candy
Sweet Max	Whisk Shield	Sugar Cape	Left-handed scoop	Purple Chef Hat	Cold Milk
Sweet Tim	Glaze Spray	Marshmallow Shield	Right-handed scoop	Purple Chef Hat	Cold Milk
Chef Prue	Sprinkle Cannon	Gummy Boots	Right-handed scoop	Purple Chef Hat	Sour Candy
Sweet Leo	Sprinkle Cannon	Cookie Shield	Left-handed scoop	Pink Chef Hat	Cold Milk
Baker Christina	Frosting Blaster	Cookie Shield	Left-handed scoop	Purple Chef Hat	Cold Milk
Baker Buddy	Cherry Launcher	Sparkle Dust	Right-handed scoop	Pink Chef Hat	Cold Milk
Baker Nadiya	Whisk Shield	Cookie Shield	Right-handed scoop	Purple Chef Hat	Cold Milk
Sweet Pam	Sprinkle Cannon	Marshmallow Shield	Right-handed scoop	Purple Chef Hat	Cold Milk
Sweet Ben	Glaze Spray	Sugar Cape	Right-handed scoop	Pink Chef Hat	Sour Candy
Sweet Ned	Frosting Blaster	Gummy Boots	Right-handed scoop	Pink Chef Hat	Sour Candy
Sweet Joy	Whisk Shield	Cookie Shield	Right-handed scoop	Green Chef Hat	Cold Milk
Sweet Mia	Frosting Blaster	Marshmallow Shield	Right-handed scoop	Green Chef Hat	Salty Pretzel

CLUE 1 Addition

We must count the cake trays. Add the trays on the table to the trays on the shelf to unlock the first clue.

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

T			T											T				
19	9	17	19	9	18	17	12	4	7	17	5	14	7	19	11	17	13	6
13	5	20	10	13	6	3	13	15	17									

$5 + 14 = \square \rightarrow$ T	$1 + 2 = \square \rightarrow$ C	$1 + 5 = \square \rightarrow$ R	$4 + 1 = \square \rightarrow$ S
$9 + 6 = \square \rightarrow$ P	$3 + 4 = \square \rightarrow$ O	$6 + 4 = \square \rightarrow$ G	$4 + 7 = \square \rightarrow$ W
$7 + 6 = \square \rightarrow$ A	$3 + 6 = \square \rightarrow$ H	$9 + 9 = \square \rightarrow$ I	$6 + 11 = \square \rightarrow$ E
$2 + 2 = \square \rightarrow$ D	$10 + 10 = \square \rightarrow$ U	$8 + 4 = \square \rightarrow$ F	
$8 + 6 = \square \rightarrow$ N			

Scratch space:

Subtraction

Some cherry toppings went missing from our bowl. Subtract the stolen cherries from the total to get the next clue.

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

Diagram illustrating the arrangement of boxes and numbers:

Top row: 14, 17, 2, 10, 19, 7, 2, 11, 14, 17, 2, 9, 5, 5, 9, 18, 17, 14

Bottom row: 17, 16, 13, 11, 15, 3, 5, 14, 17, 2, 7, 4, 3, 3, 6

$$15 - 1 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$$

$19 - 6 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$6 - 4 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$$10 - 1 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{1}$$

$6 - 3 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{0}$

18 - 8 = → **Y**

$18 - 2 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{A}$

$18 - 1 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$14 - 7 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{S}$

$9 - 4 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{R}}$

$15 - 9 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{P}$

$$20 - 5 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$$

$18 - 7 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$$20 - 1 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{U}}$$

$$19 - 1 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{G}}$$

$$8 - 4 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Word problems

Baker Ben has a story about some lost mixing bowls. Read his tale to find where the thief went next.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in the boxes to fill in the missing word.

Someone scared the villain off with

S								
16	29	23	15	17	32	30	D	Y

 .

Baker Ben found 7 frosting tubs yesterday and 9 more today. How many frosting tubs in all?

Answer: →

S

Baker Ben lined up 5 rows of 3 baking pans. How many baking pans in all?

Answer: →

R

There were 34 baking pans. 2 were used up. How many baking pans are left?

Answer: →

A

Baker Ben found 16 sprinkles yesterday and 13 more today. How many sprinkles in all?

Answer: →

O

Baker Ben lined up 3 rows of 10 baking pans. How many baking pans in all?

Answer: →

N

There were 28 sprinkles. 5 were used up. How many sprinkles are left?

Answer: →

U

Baker Ben found 7 baking pans yesterday and 10 more today. How many baking pans in all?

Answer: →

C

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Skip counting

Look at the lines of colorful sprinkles on the floor. Count them by twos to spot the hidden message.

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

W																	
27	40	39	8	26	65	36	50	42	10	65	28	140	14	55	40	50	36
39	55	8	70	50	42	10	65	28	14	50	140						

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, __, 30, 33 → **W**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, __, 16, 18 → **H**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, __, 42, 45 → **F**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, __, 60, 65 → **R**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, __, 39, 42 → **D**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, __, 70, 75 → **N**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, __, 10, 12 → **O**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, __, 75, 80 → **M**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, __, 45, 50 → **E**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, __, 28, 30 → **U**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, __, 12, 14 → **I**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, __, 150, 160 → **T**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, __, 60, 70 → **A**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, __, 45, 48 → **P**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, __, 30, 32 → **K**

Scratch space:

CLUE 5**Missing addends - the last clue**

We have some baking cups but we need more to make a full box. Find the missing number to get the last clue.

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:

$4 + \underline{\quad} = 10$

$5 + \underline{\quad} = 7$

$4 + \underline{\quad} = 7$

$6 + \underline{\quad} = 17$

$4 + \underline{\quad} = 14$

$2 + \underline{\quad} = 14$

$4 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

$10 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

$2 + \underline{\quad} = 10$

$1 + \underline{\quad} = 5$

$5 + \underline{\quad} = 14$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain carried the giant cupcake, then scattered paper baking cups.
2. The villain grabbed the giant cupcake, then left a trail of sweet frosting.
3. The villain rolled the giant cupcake away, then dropped some shiny sprinkles.
4. The villain pushed the giant cupcake, then spilled a jar of sweet glaze.
5. The villain dragged the giant cupcake, then dropped some shiny sprinkles.
6. The villain pushed the giant cupcake, then left a trail of sweet frosting.
7. The villain pushed the giant cupcake, then lost a big red cherry.
8. The villain pushed the giant cupcake, then dropped some shiny sprinkles.
9. The villain grabbed the giant cupcake, then spilled a jar of sweet glaze.
10. The villain carried the giant cupcake, then spilled a jar of sweet glaze.
11. The villain pushed the giant cupcake, then scattered paper baking cups.
12. The villain rolled the giant cupcake away, then left a trail of sweet frosting.

Answer Key

The Case of the Missing Giant Cupcake

Culprit: Chef Amaury

Glaze Spray · Gummy Boots · Right-handed scoop · Pink Chef Hat · Sour Candy

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 17 → Clue 2 11 → Clue 3 5 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Addition): "THE THIEF DOES NOT WEAR A SUGAR CAPE"

$5 + 14 = 19$ (T) · $1 + 2 = 3$ (C) · $1 + 5 = 6$ (R) · $4 + 1 = 5$ (S) · $9 + 6 = 15$ (P) · $3 + 4 = 7$ (O) · $6 + 4 = 10$ (G) · $4 + 7 = 11$ (W) · $7 + 6 = 13$ (A) · $3 + 6 = 9$ (H) · $9 + 9 = 18$ (I) · $6 + 11 = 17$ (E) · $2 + 2 = 4$ (D) · $10 + 10 = 20$ (U) · $8 + 4 = 12$ (F) · $8 + 6 = 14$ (N)

Clue 2 (Subtraction): "THEY USED THEIR RIGHT HAND FOR THE SCOOP"

$15 - 1 = 14$ (T) · $19 - 6 = 13$ (N) · $6 - 4 = 2$ (E) · $10 - 1 = 9$ (I) · $6 - 3 = 3$ (O) · $18 - 8 = 10$ (Y) · $18 - 2 = 16$ (A) · $18 - 1 = 17$ (H) · $14 - 7 = 7$ (S) · $9 - 4 = 5$ (R) · $15 - 9 = 6$ (P) · $20 - 5 = 15$ (F) · $18 - 7 = 11$ (D) · $20 - 1 = 19$ (U) · $19 - 1 = 18$ (G) · $8 - 4 = 4$ (C)

Clue 3 (Word problems): "SOUR CANDY"

Baker Ben found 7 frosting tubs yesterday and 9 more today. How many frosting tubs in all? = 16 (S) · Baker Ben lined up 5 rows of 3 baking pans. How many baking pans in all? = 15 (R) · There were 34 baking pans. 2 were used up. How many baking pans are left? = 32 (A) · Baker Ben found 16 sprinkles yesterday and 13 more today. How many sprinkles in all? = 29 (O) · Baker Ben lined up 3 rows of 10 baking pans. How many baking pans in all? = 30 (N) · There were 28 sprinkles. 5 were used up. How many sprinkles are left? = 23 (U) · Baker Ben found 7 baking pans yesterday and 10 more today. How many baking pans in all? = 17 (C)

Clue 4 (Skip counting): "WE FOUND A PINK THREAD FROM A PINK HAT"

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, __, 30, 33 = 27 (W) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, __, 16, 18 = 14 (H) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, __, 42, 45 = 39 (F) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, __, 60, 65 = 55 (R) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, __, 39, 42 = 36 (D) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, __, 70, 75 = 65 (N) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, __, 10, 12 = 8 (O) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, __, 75, 80 = 70 (M) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, __, 45, 50 = 40 (E) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, __, 28, 30 = 26 (U) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, __, 12, 14 = 10 (I) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, __, 150, 160 = 140 (T) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, __, 60, 70 = 50 (A) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, __, 45, 48 = 42 (P) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, __, 30, 32 = 28 (K)

Clue 5 (Missing addends): surviving statement is box 5 → Chef Amaury

$4 + \underline{\quad} = 10 = 6$ · $5 + \underline{\quad} = 7 = 2$ · $4 + \underline{\quad} = 7 = 3$ · $6 + \underline{\quad} = 17 = 11$ · $4 + \underline{\quad} = 14 = 10$ · $2 + \underline{\quad} = 14 = 12$ · $4 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 7$ · $10 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 1$ · $2 + \underline{\quad} = 10 = 8$ · $1 + \underline{\quad} = 5 = 4$ · $5 + \underline{\quad} = 14 = 9$