



The Case of the Missing Golden Cleat

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

The shiny Golden Cleat has disappeared from the main trophy case. The League Phantom took it right before the championship game. Solve the soccer math puzzles to help the Stadium Groundskeeper find the culprit before kickoff.

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 League Phantom is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	SIGNATURE TRICK	LUCKY GEAR	KICKING FOOT	HAIR ACCESSORY	FAVORITE SNACK
Raheem	Header	Golden Shin Guards	Left Footed	Neon Headband	Orange Slices
Jack	Header	Golden Shin Guards	Right Footed	Neon Headband	Energy Bar
Phil	Rainbow Flick	Neon Gloves	Left Footed	Neon Headband	Energy Bar
Mo	Knuckleball Free Kick	GPS Tracker Vest	Right Footed	Neon Headband	Orange Slices
Erling	Scissor Kick	Golden Shin Guards	Left Footed	Hair Clip	Orange Slices
Lionel	Knuckleball Free Kick	Super Grip Cleats	Left Footed	Neon Headband	Energy Bar
Mason	Bicycle Kick	GPS Tracker Vest	Left Footed	Neon Headband	Energy Bar
Cristiano	Bicycle Kick	Smart Watch	Left Footed	Neon Headband	Energy Bar
Bruno	Rainbow Flick	Smart Watch	Left Footed	Neon Headband	Orange Slices
Antoine	Rainbow Flick	Neon Gloves	Right Footed	Neon Headband	Orange Slices
Neymar	Scissor Kick	GPS Tracker Vest	Left Footed	Hair Clip	Sports Drink
Declan	Rainbow Flick	Golden Shin Guards	Right Footed	Hair Clip	Sports Drink
Karim	Bicycle Kick	Smart Watch	Left Footed	Sweatband	Energy Bar
Luka	Knuckleball Free Kick	Neon Gloves	Left Footed	Sweatband	Orange Slices
Jude	Rainbow Flick	Neon Gloves	Right Footed	Sweatband	Sports Drink
Sadio	Knuckleball Free Kick	Smart Watch	Left Footed	Sweatband	Energy Bar
Sonny	Rainbow Flick	Smart Watch	Right Footed	Neon Headband	Energy Bar
Harry	Rainbow Flick	Smart Watch	Left Footed	Neon Headband	Energy Bar
Virgil	Header	Golden Shin Guards	Left Footed	Neon Headband	Sports Drink
Kevin	Rainbow Flick	Neon Gloves	Left Footed	Hair Clip	Energy Bar
Robert	Bicycle Kick	GPS Tracker Vest	Left Footed	Hair Clip	Orange Slices

CLUE 1 Rounding

The referee left a stack of soccer math word problems on the clipboard. Solve them to find out which gear the phantom did not wear.

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

T								T										T
60	9000	20	50	9000	4000	2000	60	5000	600	90	5000	20	3000	2000	5000	60		
400	20	4000	70	4000	8000	50	3000	800	20	3000	60							

Round 60 to the nearest ten → **T**

Round 7,991 to the nearest thousand → **G**

Round 2,175 to the nearest thousand → **N**

Round 3,927 to the nearest thousand → **A**

Round 5,288 to the nearest thousand → **O**

Round 633 to the nearest hundred → **M**

Round 90 to the nearest ten → **D**

Round 8,606 to the nearest thousand → **H**

Round 3,315 to the nearest thousand → **S**

Round 46 to the nearest ten → **P**

Round 23 to the nearest ten → **E**

Round 427 to the nearest hundred → **W**

Round 847 to the nearest hundred → **V**

Round 72 to the nearest ten → **R**

Scratch space:

CLUE 2**Word problems**

The stadium radar gun tracked a fast kick but the digital screen only displays rounded numbers. Round the speed to find the suspect's kicking foot.

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

A witness saw the villain was

L									
21	8	24	35	24	39	39	35	8	60

.

The team captain lined up 7 rows of 3 soccer balls. How many soccer balls in all?

Answer: →

L

The team captain found 30 soccer balls yesterday and 9 more today. How many soccer balls in all?

Answer: →

O

The team captain found 6 practice cones yesterday and 29 more today. How many practice cones in all?

Answer: →

T

The team captain lined up 5 rows of 12 water bottles. How many water bottles in all?

Answer: →

D

There were 37 yellow cards. 29 were used up. How many yellow cards are left?

Answer: →

E

There were 38 team pinnies. 14 were used up. How many team pinnies are left?

Answer: →

F

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Addition

We tallied the total soccer balls left on the practice pitch after the warmups. Add them up to discover what favorite snack the villain ate.

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

T																			
898	525	574	714	608	543	543	495	608	708	985	279	741	769	769	574	985	495	708	
574	708	574	279	686	243	797	495	279	286	279	495	769	769	574	279				

$478 + 420 = \square \rightarrow$ T	$334 + 380 = \square \rightarrow$ V	$314 + 372 = \square \rightarrow$ G
$507 + 290 = \square \rightarrow$ B	$303 + 192 = \square \rightarrow$ A	$237 + 337 = \square \rightarrow$ E
$318 + 667 = \square \rightarrow$ D	$76 + 167 = \square \rightarrow$ Y	$186 + 93 = \square \rightarrow$ R
$405 + 203 = \square \rightarrow$ I	$351 + 390 = \square \rightarrow$ O	$95 + 191 = \square \rightarrow$ W
$258 + 285 = \square \rightarrow$ L	$236 + 472 = \square \rightarrow$ N	$318 + 207 = \square \rightarrow$ H
$379 + 390 = \square \rightarrow$ P		

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Subtraction

The equipment manager needs to subtract the missing training cones from the team bag. Solve this to find what hair accessory the villain had.

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

A							A			A					A	
511	414	855	322	414	397	855	511	583	277	511	414	583	581	511	570	
731	855	766	887	322	414	887	397	855	277	855	414	287	397			

$$550 - 39 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$$

$$784 - 370 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$$

$$404 - 7 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$$

$$971 - 84 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$$

$$1228 - 373 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$$

$$939 - 358 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$$

$$808 - 238 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$$

$$676 - 93 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$$

$$423 - 146 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$$

$$625 - 338 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$$

$$623 - 301 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$$

$$908 - 142 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$$

$$925 - 194 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{L}}$$

Scratch space:

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

We shared a box of champion soccer patches equally among the young team players. Divide them up to reveal the final 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:

$48 \div 6 = \boxed{}$

$42 \div 7 = \boxed{}$

$24 \div 8 = \boxed{}$

$84 \div 12 = \boxed{}$

$120 \div 12 = \boxed{}$

$9 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$11 \div 1 = \boxed{}$

$36 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$14 \div 7 = \boxed{}$

$18 \div 2 = \boxed{}$

$55 \div 11 = \boxed{}$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain blasts a soccer ball into the goal, then tightens their super grip cleats.
2. The villain runs a series of shuttle sprints, then straps on their golden shin guards.
3. The villain juggles a soccer ball down the hallway, then checks their smart watch.
4. The villain runs a series of shuttle sprints, then tightens their super grip cleats.
5. The villain dribbles through the security cones, then straps on their golden shin guards.
6. The villain dribbles through the security cones, then checks their smart watch.
7. The villain blasts a soccer ball into the goal, then clips a gps tracker to their vest.
8. The villain practices trick shots off the lockers, then tightens their super grip cleats.
9. The villain practices trick shots off the lockers, then adjusts their neon gloves.
10. The villain practices trick shots off the lockers, then checks their smart watch.
11. The villain runs a series of shuttle sprints, then checks their smart watch.
12. The villain dribbles through the security cones, then adjusts their neon gloves.

Answer Key

The Case of the Missing Golden Cleat

Culprit: Phil

Rainbow Flick · Neon Gloves · Left Footed · Neon Headband · Energy Bar

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 17 → Clue 2 12 → Clue 3 7 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Rounding): "THE PHANTOM DOES NOT WEAR A GPS VEST"

Round 60 to the nearest ten = 60 (T) · Round 7,991 to the nearest thousand = 8000 (G) · Round 2,175 to the nearest thousand = 2000 (N) · Round 3,927 to the nearest thousand = 4000 (A) · Round 5,288 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (O) · Round 633 to the nearest hundred = 600 (M) · Round 90 to the nearest ten = 90 (D) · Round 8,606 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (H) · Round 3,315 to the nearest thousand = 3000 (S) · Round 46 to the nearest ten = 50 (P) · Round 23 to the nearest ten = 20 (E) · Round 427 to the nearest hundred = 400 (W) · Round 847 to the nearest hundred = 800 (V) · Round 72 to the nearest ten = 70 (R)

Clue 2 (Word problems): "LEFT FOOTED"

The team captain lined up 7 rows of 3 soccer balls. How many soccer balls in all? = 21 (L) · The team captain found 30 soccer balls yesterday and 9 more today. How many soccer balls in all? = 39 (O) · The team captain found 6 practice cones yesterday and 29 more today. How many practice cones in all? = 35 (T) · The team captain lined up 5 rows of 12 water bottles. How many water bottles in all? = 60 (D) · There were 37 yellow cards. 29 were used up. How many yellow cards are left? = 8 (E) · There were 38 team pinnies. 14 were used up. How many team pinnies are left? = 24 (F)

Clue 3 (Addition): "THE VILLAIN DROPPED AN ENERGY BAR WRAPPER"

$478 + 420 = 898$ (T) · $334 + 380 = 714$ (V) · $314 + 372 = 686$ (G) · $507 + 290 = 797$ (B) · $303 + 192 = 495$ (A) · $237 + 337 = 574$ (E) · $318 + 667 = 985$ (D) · $76 + 167 = 243$ (Y) · $186 + 93 = 279$ (R) · $405 + 203 = 608$ (I) · $351 + 390 = 741$ (O) · $95 + 191 = 286$ (W) · $258 + 285 = 543$ (L) · $236 + 472 = 708$ (N) · $318 + 207 = 525$ (H) · $379 + 390 = 769$ (P)

Clue 4 (Subtraction): "A NEON HEADBAND WAS LEFT ON THE BENCH"

$550 - 39 = 511$ (A) · $784 - 370 = 414$ (N) · $404 - 7 = 397$ (H) · $971 - 84 = 887$ (T) · $1228 - 373 = 855$ (E) · $939 - 358 = 581$ (W) · $808 - 238 = 570$ (S) · $676 - 93 = 583$ (D) · $423 - 146 = 277$ (B) · $625 - 338 = 287$ (C) · $623 - 301 = 322$ (O) · $908 - 142 = 766$ (F) · $925 - 194 = 731$ (L)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 12 → Phil

$48 \div 6 = 8$ · $42 \div 7 = 6$ · $24 \div 8 = 3$ · $84 \div 12 = 7$ · $120 \div 12 = 10$ · $9 \div 9 = 1$ · $11 \div 1 = 11$ · $36 \div 9 = 4$ · $14 \div 7 = 2$ · $18 \div 2 = 9$ · $55 \div 11 = 5$