The Case of the Missing Golden Fish

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

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

A sneaky cat swiped the Mayor's Golden Fish statue from the park! Work through the clue math to find out which crafty cat took it.

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 Cat Burglar is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	CAT SKILL	FAVORITE TOY	PAW LEAD	FUR PATTERN	BIG FEAR
Shadow	Super Leap	Silver Bell	Right Pawed	Tabby Stripes	Vacuum Noise
Luna	Night Vision	Catnip Pouch	Right Pawed	Calico Patch	Cucumber Trap
Ziggy	Mega Purr	Silver Bell	Right Pawed	Tuxedo Suit	Water Sprayer
Hazel	Laser Dash	Squeaky Mouse	Left Pawed	Tabby Stripes	Cucumber Trap
Gizmo	Wall Climb	Squeaky Mouse	Left Pawed	Calico Patch	Water Sprayer
Smokey	Laser Dash	Yarn Ball	Left Pawed	Tabby Stripes	Cucumber Trap
Barnaby	Super Leap	Squeaky Mouse	Left Pawed	Tuxedo Suit	Cucumber Trap
Felix	Mega Purr	Yarn Ball	Right Pawed	Calico Patch	Cucumber Trap
Sylvester	Super Leap	Yarn Ball	Right Pawed	Tabby Stripes	Cucumber Trap
Simba	Wall Climb	Feather Wand	Right Pawed	Calico Patch	Water Sprayer
Cleo	Laser Dash	Silver Bell	Right Pawed	Tabby Stripes	Water Sprayer
Jasper	Super Leap	Feather Wand	Right Pawed	Tuxedo Suit	Cucumber Trap
Mochi	Super Leap	Silver Bell	Right Pawed	Tabby Stripes	Cucumber Trap
Tom	Night Vision	Catnip Pouch	Right Pawed	Calico Patch	Water Sprayer
Oreo	Super Leap	Catnip Pouch	Right Pawed	Tabby Stripes	Water Sprayer
Oliver	Laser Dash	Squeaky Mouse	Right Pawed	Tuxedo Suit	Cucumber Trap
Mittens	Mega Purr	Catnip Pouch	Right Pawed	Tabby Stripes	Cucumber Trap
Whiskers	Mega Purr	Feather Wand	Right Pawed	Tabby Stripes	Cucumber Trap
Bella	Laser Dash	Squeaky Mouse	Right Pawed	Tabby Stripes	Cucumber Trap
Socks	Super Leap	Catnip Pouch	Right Pawed	Calico Patch	Water Sprayer
Nala	Super Leap	Catnip Pouch	Right Pawed	Tuxedo Suit	Vacuum Noise

make your own at mathcrackers.com

CLUE 1 Place value

Keeper Kit read a story problem to count lost cat treats.

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

T																		T	
55	31	97	21	59	78	78	16	59	52	67	26	97	94	52	26	55			
			T																
63	94	97	55	31	97	13	16	24	52	84	16	78	78						

What number has 5 tens and 5 ones? ☐ → T

What number has 2 tens and 4 ones? ☐ → R

What number has 3 tens and 1 one? ☐ → H

What number has 2 tens and 6 ones? ☐ → O

What number has 9 tens and 7 ones? ☐ → E

What number has 8 tens and 4 ones? ☐ → B

What number has 9 tens and 4 ones? ☐ → S

What number has 5 tens and 2 ones? ☐ → N

What number has 5 tens and 9 ones? ☐ → I

What number has 7 tens and 8 ones? ☐ → L

What number has 1 ten and 3 ones? ☐ → Y

What number has 2 tens and 1 one? ☐ → V

What number has 6 tens and 3 ones? ☐ → U

What number has 6 tens and 7 ones? ☐ → D

What number has 1 ten and 6 ones? ☐ → A

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Word problems

Keeper Kit checked the digital collar code in tens and ones.

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

A witness saw the villain was

R							W	E	D
29	21	26	33	25	14	10			

.

There were 32 scratch posts. 3 were used up. How many scratch posts are left?

Answer: ☐ → R

There were 31 bell collars. 6 were used up. How many bell collars are left?

Answer: ☐ → T

Detective Whiskers found 26 bell collars yesterday and 7 more today. How many bell collars in all?

Answer: ☐ → H

Detective Whiskers found 11 cat treats yesterday and 3 more today. How many cat treats in all?

Answer: ☐ → P

Detective Whiskers found 14 scratch posts yesterday and 12 more today. How many scratch posts in all?

Answer: ☐ → G

Detective Whiskers found 4 toy mice yesterday and 6 more today. How many toy mice in all?

Answer: ☐ → A

Detective Whiskers found 9 scratch posts yesterday and 12 more today. How many scratch posts in all?

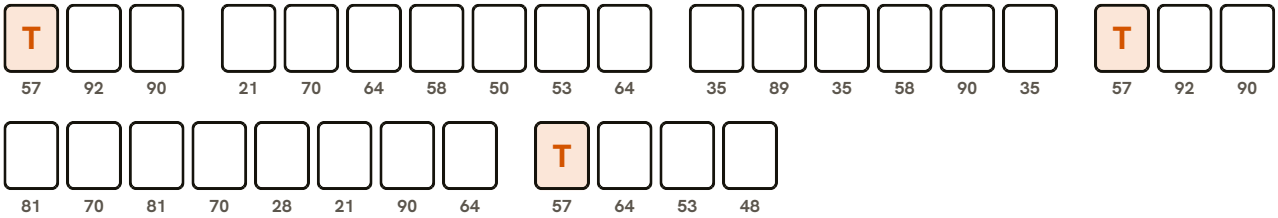
Answer: ☐ → I

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Addition

> Keeper Kit added up all the paw prints found near the bench.

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



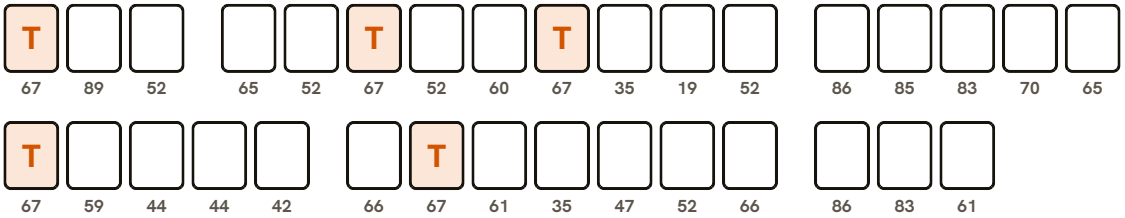
24 + 33 = ☐ → T	60 + 32 = ☐ → H	33 + 31 = ☐ → R
26 + 63 = ☐ → O	54 + 36 = ☐ → E	24 + 34 = ☐ → G
38 + 15 = ☐ → A	56 + 25 = ☐ → C	20 + 8 = ☐ → M
26 + 22 = ☐ → P	36 + 34 = ☐ → U	17 + 18 = ☐ → D
13 + 8 = ☐ → B	32 + 18 = ☐ → L	

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Subtraction

Keeper Kit subtracted the spilled bowls to see what was left.

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



106 - 39 = ☐ → T

122 - 37 = ☐ → O

102 - 36 = ☐ → S

98 - 39 = ☐ → A

88 - 2 = ☐ → F

66 - 1 = ☐ → D

77 - 33 = ☐ → B

89 - 19 = ☐ → N

59 - 40 = ☐ → V

77 - 16 = ☐ → R

57 - 10 = ☐ → P

78 - 18 = ☐ → C

74 - 32 = ☐ → Y

71 - 36 = ☐ → I

72 - 20 = ☐ → E

107 - 24 = ☐ → U

112 - 23 = ☐ → H

Scratch space:

CLUE 5 Missing addends - the last clue

> Keeper Kit found how many more treats were needed to fill the jar.

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:

8 + ___ = 20 ☐	5 + ___ = 12 ☐	2 + ___ = 4 ☐	2 + ___ = 12 ☐
5 + ___ = 10 ☐	2 + ___ = 10 ☐	4 + ___ = 7 ☐	5 + ___ = 9 ☐
6 + ___ = 15 ☐	3 + ___ = 9 ☐	5 + ___ = 16 ☐	

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain purred loud to distract the guard, then swung a feather wand.
2. The villain leapt high over the park fence, then jingled a silver bell.
3. The villain snuck past the dark trees, then jingled a silver bell.
4. The villain dashed fast like a laser beam, then dropped a catnip pouch.
5. The villain leapt high over the park fence, then dropped a catnip pouch.
6. The villain dashed fast like a laser beam, then swung a feather wand.
7. The villain dashed fast like a laser beam, then squeaked a toy mouse.
8. The villain purred loud to distract the guard, then squeaked a toy mouse.
9. The villain climbed up the high brick wall, then dropped a catnip pouch.
10. The villain climbed up the high brick wall, then squeaked a toy mouse.
11. The villain snuck past the dark trees, then rolled a yarn ball.
12. The villain purred loud to distract the guard, then dropped a catnip pouch.

TEACHER / PARENT

Answer Key

The Case of the Missing Golden Fish

Culprit: Whiskers

Mega Purr · Feather Wand · Right Pawed · Tabby Stripes · Cucumber Trap

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 18 → Clue 2 15 → Clue 3 7 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Place value): "THE VILLAIN DOES NOT USE THE YARN BALL"

What number has 5 tens and 5 ones? = 55 (T) · What number has 2 tens and 4 ones? = 24 (R) · What number has 3 tens and 1 one? = 31 (H) · What number has 2 tens and 6 ones? = 26 (O) · What number has 9 tens and 7 ones? = 97 (E) · What number has 8 tens and 4 ones? = 84 (B) · What number has 9 tens and 4 ones? = 94 (S) · What number has 5 tens and 2 ones? = 52 (N) · What number has 5 tens and 9 ones? = 59 (I) · What number has 7 tens and 8 ones? = 78 (L) · What number has 1 ten and 3 ones? = 13 (Y) · What number has 2 tens and 1 one? = 21 (V) · What number has 6 tens and 3 ones? = 63 (U) · What number has 6 tens and 7 ones? = 67 (D) · What number has 1 ten and 6 ones? = 16 (A)

Clue 2 (Word problems): "RIGHT PAWED"

There were 32 scratch posts. 3 were used up. How many scratch posts are left? = 29 (R) · There were 31 bell collars. 6 were used up. How many bell collars are left? = 25 (T) · Detective Whiskers found 26 bell collars yesterday and 7 more today. How many bell collars in all? = 33 (H) · Detective Whiskers found 11 cat treats yesterday and 3 more today. How many cat treats in all? = 14 (P) · Detective Whiskers found 14 scratch posts yesterday and 12 more today. How many scratch posts in all? = 26 (G) · Detective Whiskers found 4 toy mice yesterday and 6 more today. How many toy mice in all? = 10 (A) · Detective Whiskers found 9 scratch posts yesterday and 12 more today. How many scratch posts in all? = 21 (I)

Clue 3 (Addition): "THE BURGLAR DODGED THE CUCUMBER TRAP"

24 + 33 = 57 (T) · 60 + 32 = 92 (H) · 33 + 31 = 64 (R) · 26 + 63 = 89 (O) · 54 + 36 = 90 (E) · 24 + 34 = 58 (G) · 38 + 15 = 53 (A) · 56 + 25 = 81 (C) · 20 + 8 = 28 (M) · 26 + 22 = 48 (P) · 36 + 34 = 70 (U) · 17 + 18 = 35 (D) · 13 + 8 = 21 (B) · 32 + 18 = 50 (L)

Clue 4 (Subtraction): "THE DETECTIVE FOUND TABBY STRIPES FUR"

106 - 39 = 67 (T) · 122 - 37 = 85 (O) · 102 - 36 = 66 (S) · 98 - 39 = 59 (A) · 88 - 2 = 86 (F) · 66 - 1 = 65 (D) · 77 - 33 = 44 (B) · 89 - 19 = 70 (N) · 59 - 40 = 19 (V) · 77 - 16 = 61 (R) · 57 - 10 = 47 (P) · 78 - 18 = 60 (C) · 74 - 32 = 42 (Y) · 71 - 36 = 35 (I) · 72 - 20 = 52 (E) · 107 - 24 = 83 (U) · 112 - 23 = 89 (H)

Clue 5 (Missing addends): surviving statement is box 1 → Whiskers

8 + ___ = 20 = 12 · 5 + ___ = 12 = 7 · 2 + ___ = 4 = 2 · 2 + ___ = 12 = 10 · 5 + ___ = 10 = 5 · 2 + ___ = 10 = 8 · 4 + ___ = 7 = 3 · 5 + ___ = 9 = 4 · 6 + ___ = 15 = 9 · 3 + ___ = 9 = 6 · 5 + ___ = 16 = 11