The Championship Trophy Mystery

Grade 2 math · Place value, Skip counting, Rounding, Addition, Missing addends · Reading level grades 3-4

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

Just hours before the final game, the golden championship trophy vanished from the arena lobby! The culprit left behind court marks and strange clues. Decipher the math clues to identify the thief among the players on the court.

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 Championship Bandit is _____

Possible suspects

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

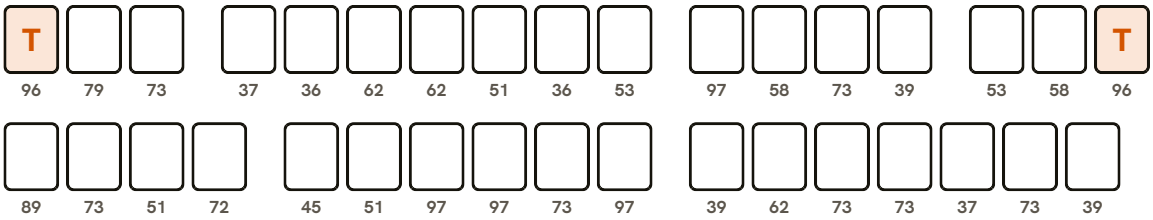
NAME	SIGNATURE MOVE	LUCKY GEAR	SHOOTING HAND	HAIRSTYLE	COURT WEAKNESS
Luka Doncic	Crossover	Whistle Lanyard	Right Handed	Braided Cornrows	Full Court Press
Candace Parker	Slam Dunk	Neon Headband	Left Handed	Braided Cornrows	Squeaky Shoes
Joel Embiid	Three Pointer	Whistle Lanyard	Left Handed	Curly Top	Squeaky Shoes
Nikola Jokic	Three Pointer	Striped Socks	Left Handed	Curly Top	Squeaky Shoes
Diana Taurasi	Crossover	Padded Sleeves	Left Handed	Curly Top	Full Court Press
Nneka Ogwumike	No Look Pass	Neon Headband	Left Handed	Braided Cornrows	Bounce Pass
Giannis Antetokounmpo	Crossover	Neon Headband	Right Handed	Curly Top	Squeaky Shoes
Ja Morant	Slam Dunk	High Top Kicks	Right Handed	Braided Cornrows	Squeaky Shoes
A'ja Wilson	Sky Hook	Whistle Lanyard	Left Handed	Curly Top	Full Court Press
Kevin Durant	No Look Pass	Padded Sleeves	Left Handed	Curly Top	Squeaky Shoes
Maya Moore	No Look Pass	Padded Sleeves	Right Handed	Curly Top	Full Court Press
Sheryl Swoopes	Crossover	Padded Sleeves	Left Handed	Braided Cornrows	Full Court Press
Skylar Diggins	Crossover	Striped Socks	Right Handed	Short Buzz	Bounce Pass
Elena Delle Donne	No Look Pass	Whistle Lanyard	Right Handed	Curly Top	Squeaky Shoes
Kaitlyn Clark	Sky Hook	Striped Socks	Left Handed	Curly Top	Bounce Pass
Stephen Curry	Crossover	Neon Headband	Left Handed	Braided Cornrows	Bounce Pass
Lisa Leslie	Crossover	Neon Headband	Right Handed	Short Buzz	Bounce Pass
Breanna Stewart	Sky Hook	Neon Headband	Left Handed	Curly Top	Squeaky Shoes
Jayson Tatum	Sky Hook	Neon Headband	Left Handed	Braided Cornrows	Squeaky Shoes
Sabrina Ionescu	Sky Hook	Whistle Lanyard	Left Handed	Curly Top	Squeaky Shoes
Devin Booker	Three Pointer	High Top Kicks	Left Handed	Braided Cornrows	Bounce Pass

make your own at mathcrackers.com

CLUE 1 Place value

A digital keypad locked the trophy case. Check the place value of the digits on the locker to unlock the first clue.

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



What number has 9 tens and 6 ones? ☐ → T

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

What number has 5 tens and 3 ones? ☐ → N

What number has 7 tens and 3 ones? ☐ → E

What number has 7 tens and 2 ones? ☐ → R

What number has 4 tens and 5 ones? ☐ → P

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

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

What number has 3 tens and 7 ones? ☐ → V

What number has 3 tens and 9 ones? ☐ → S

What number has 8 tens and 9 ones? ☐ → W

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

What number has 5 tens and 1 one? ☐ → A

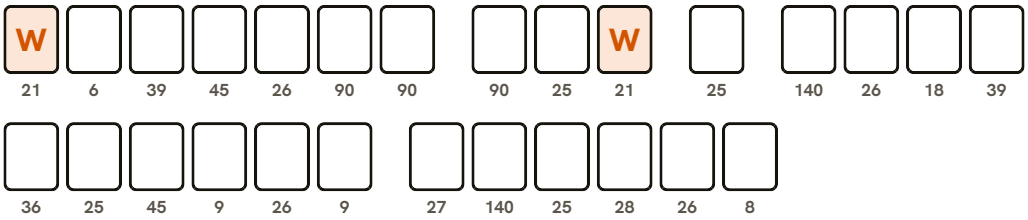
What number has 5 tens and 8 ones? ☐ → O

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Skip counting

> The thief dropped player badges along the court lines. Count by twos down the sidelines to gather the badges and find the clue.

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



Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, ___, 24, 27 ☐ → **W**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, ___, 50, 55 ☐ → **N**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, ___, 12, 15 ☐ → **D**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, ___, 8, 10 ☐ → **I**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, ___, 10, 12 ☐ → **R**

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

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

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

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, ___, 21, 24 ☐ → **F**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, ___, 30, 35 ☐ → **A**

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

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, ___, 100, 110 ☐ → **S**

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

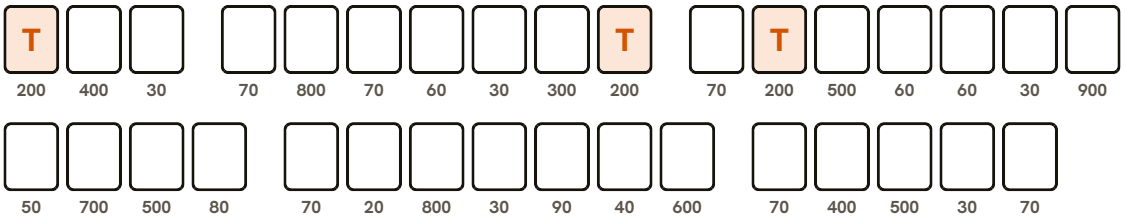
Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, ___, 42, 45 ☐ → **T**

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Rounding

> The electronic scoreboard only shows rounded team totals. Round the spectator counts to uncover the next piece of evidence.

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



Round 210 to the nearest hundred ☐ → T

Round 251 to the nearest hundred ☐ → C

Round 503 to the nearest hundred ☐ → O

Round 21 to the nearest ten ☐ → Q

Round 561 to the nearest hundred ☐ → Y

Round 46 to the nearest ten ☐ → F

Round 701 to the nearest hundred ☐ → R

Round 41 to the nearest ten ☐ → K

Round 428 to the nearest hundred ☐ → H

Round 801 to the nearest hundred ☐ → U

Round 56 to the nearest ten ☐ → P

Round 84 to the nearest ten ☐ → M

Round 30 to the nearest ten ☐ → E

Round 72 to the nearest ten ☐ → S

Round 89 to the nearest ten ☐ → A

Round 888 to the nearest hundred ☐ → D

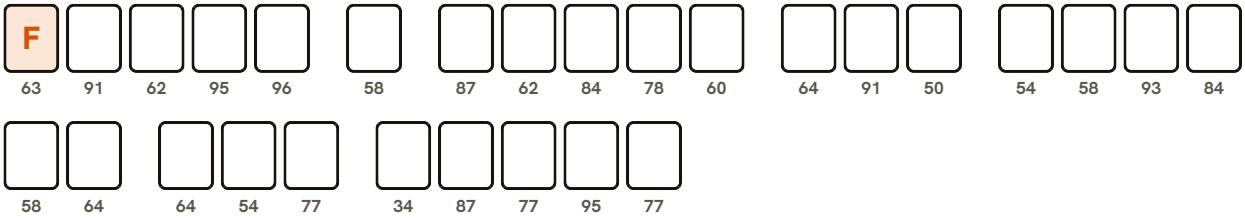
Scratch space:

CLUE 4

Addition

Add up the points scored in each quarter to complete the scorekeeper log and reveal who visited the bench.

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



42 + 21 = ☐ → F	50 + 45 = ☐ → N	29 + 25 = ☐ → H
65 + 28 = ☐ → I	12 + 22 = ☐ → S	15 + 35 = ☐ → P
30 + 48 = ☐ → L	33 + 44 = ☐ → E	25 + 39 = ☐ → T
21 + 39 = ☐ → Y	35 + 56 = ☐ → O	36 + 60 = ☐ → D
49 + 35 = ☐ → R	34 + 28 = ☐ → U	45 + 42 = ☐ → C
36 + 22 = ☐ → A		

Scratch space:

CLUE 5 Missing addends - the last clue

> Some practice cones are missing from the equipment rack. Find the missing addend to balance the inventory and catch the villain.

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:

2 + ___ = 9 ☐	9 + ___ = 20 ☐	1 + ___ = 6 ☐	6 + ___ = 10 ☐
2 + ___ = 14 ☐	6 + ___ = 9 ☐	8 + ___ = 17 ☐	9 + ___ = 10 ☐
10 + ___ = 12 ☐	5 + ___ = 15 ☐	3 + ___ = 11 ☐	

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain tossed a no look pass, then laced up high top kicks.
2. The villain launched a sky hook, then straightened striped socks.
3. The villain did a crossover dribble, then grabbed a whistle lanyard.
4. The villain executed a slam dunk, then laced up high top kicks.
5. The villain launched a sky hook, then grabbed a whistle lanyard.
6. The villain hit a three pointer, then straightened striped socks.
7. The villain launched a sky hook, then adjusted a neon headband.
8. The villain tossed a no look pass, then pulled on padded sleeves.
9. The villain executed a slam dunk, then straightened striped socks.
10. The villain did a crossover dribble, then straightened striped socks.
11. The villain hit a three pointer, then grabbed a whistle lanyard.
12. The villain launched a sky hook, then pulled on padded sleeves.

TEACHER / PARENT

Answer Key

The Championship Trophy Mystery

Culprit: Nikola Jokic

Three Pointer · Striped Socks · Left Handed · Curly Top · Squeaky Shoes

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 17 → Clue 2 11 → Clue 3 6 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Place value): "THE VILLAIN DOES NOT WEAR PADDED SLEEVES"

What number has 9 tens and 6 ones? = 96 (T) · What number has 7 tens and 9 ones? = 79 (H) · What number has 5 tens and 3 ones? = 53 (N) · What number has 7 tens and 3 ones? = 73 (E) · What number has 7 tens and 2 ones? = 72 (R) · What number has 4 tens and 5 ones? = 45 (P) · What number has 9 tens and 7 ones? = 97 (D) · What number has 3 tens and 6 ones? = 36 (I) · What number has 3 tens and 7 ones? = 37 (V) · What number has 3 tens and 9 ones? = 39 (S) · What number has 8 tens and 9 ones? = 89 (W) · What number has 6 tens and 2 ones? = 62 (L) · What number has 5 tens and 1 one? = 51 (A) · What number has 5 tens and 8 ones? = 58 (O)

Clue 2 (Skip counting): "WITNESS SAW A LEFT HANDED PLAYER"

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

Clue 3 (Rounding): "THE SUSPECT STOPPED FROM SQUEAKY SHOES"

Round 210 to the nearest hundred = 200 (T) · Round 251 to the nearest hundred = 300 (C) · Round 503 to the nearest hundred = 500 (O) · Round 21 to the nearest ten = 20 (Q) · Round 561 to the nearest hundred = 600 (Y) · Round 46 to the nearest ten = 50 (F) · Round 701 to the nearest hundred = 700 (R) · Round 41 to the nearest ten = 40 (K) · Round 428 to the nearest hundred = 400 (H) · Round 801 to the nearest hundred = 800 (U) · Round 56 to the nearest ten = 60 (P) · Round 84 to the nearest ten = 80 (M) · Round 30 to the nearest ten = 30 (E) · Round 72 to the nearest ten = 70 (S) · Round 89 to the nearest ten = 90 (A) · Round 888 to the nearest hundred = 900 (D)

Clue 4 (Addition): "FOUND A CURLY TOP HAIR AT THE SCENE"

42 + 21 = 63 (F) · 50 + 45 = 95 (N) · 29 + 25 = 54 (H) · 65 + 28 = 93 (I) · 12 + 22 = 34 (S) · 15 + 35 = 50 (P) · 30 + 48 = 78 (L) · 33 + 44 = 77 (E) · 25 + 39 = 64 (T) · 21 + 39 = 60 (Y) · 35 + 56 = 91 (O) · 36 + 60 = 96 (D) · 49 + 35 = 84 (R) · 34 + 28 = 62 (U) · 45 + 42 = 87 (C) · 36 + 22 = 58 (A)

Clue 5 (Missing addends): surviving statement is box 6 → Nikola Jokic

2 + ___ = 9 = 7 · 9 + ___ = 20 = 11 · 1 + ___ = 6 = 5 · 6 + ___ = 10 = 4 · 2 + ___ = 14 = 12 · 6 + ___ = 9 = 3 · 8 + ___ = 17 = 9 · 9 + ___ = 10 = 1 · 10 + ___ = 12 = 2 · 5 + ___ = 15 = 10 · 3 + ___ = 11 = 8