



The Championship Trophy Snatch

Grade 9 math · Skip counting, Multi-step word problems, Bar models, Word problems, Two-step equations · Reading level grades 5-6

Detective: _____ Date: _____

Just minutes before tipoff at the state championship, the gold trophy vanished from center court! A sneaky hoop bandit left only chalk marks and coded playbook notes behind. Coach Davis needs your math skills to eliminate suspects and catch the court culprit before the final buzzer!

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 hoop 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	GEAR ACCENT	DRIBBLE STYLE	HAIRSTYLE	DISTRACTION
Sabrina Ionescu	alley oop dunk	padded headband	left handed dribble	braided cornrows	glaring arena spotlight
Kyrie Irving	crossover dribble	ankle braces	left handed dribble	braided cornrows	loud whistle blow
Trae Young	alley oop dunk	neon wristband	right handed dribble	high top fade	glaring arena spotlight
Breanna Stewart	crossover dribble	ankle braces	left handed dribble	high top fade	glaring arena spotlight
Kelsey Plum	sky hook shot	grip sleeve	right handed dribble	braided cornrows	glaring arena spotlight
Luka Doncic	alley oop dunk	padded headband	right handed dribble	braided cornrows	squeaky sneaker noise
Diana Taurasi	triple threat position	ankle braces	left handed dribble	buzz cut	glaring arena spotlight
Aja Wilson	triple threat position	neon wristband	right handed dribble	braided cornrows	glaring arena spotlight
Anthony Edwards	no look pass	glowing sneakers	right handed dribble	braided cornrows	glaring arena spotlight
Steph Curry	no look pass	glowing sneakers	right handed dribble	buzz cut	squeaky sneaker noise
Sue Bird	sky hook shot	glowing sneakers	left handed dribble	braided cornrows	squeaky sneaker noise
Maya Moore	triple threat position	neon wristband	left handed dribble	braided cornrows	squeaky sneaker noise
Devin Booker	crossover dribble	grip sleeve	right handed dribble	braided cornrows	glaring arena spotlight
Kevin Durant	sky hook shot	ankle braces	right handed dribble	braided cornrows	glaring arena spotlight
Jayson Tatum	crossover dribble	padded headband	right handed dribble	braided cornrows	squeaky sneaker noise
Ja Morant	triple threat position	glowing sneakers	right handed dribble	buzz cut	glaring arena spotlight
Shaquille O'Neal	triple threat position	ankle braces	right handed dribble	braided cornrows	glaring arena spotlight
LeBron James	crossover dribble	neon wristband	left handed dribble	braided cornrows	squeaky sneaker noise
Kobe Bryant	crossover dribble	grip sleeve	right handed dribble	high top fade	glaring arena spotlight
Giannis Antetokounmpo	triple threat position	ankle braces	left handed dribble	braided cornrows	squeaky sneaker noise
Jimmy Butler	no look pass	ankle braces	right handed dribble	buzz cut	squeaky sneaker noise

CLUE 1 Skip counting

The stadium scorekeeper tracked pattern drills on the electronic board to unlock locker room notes.

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

T									T								T
14	30	6	20	80	20	45	6	50	14	36	9	6	20	21	9	14	
33	6	70	60	70	16	60	39	45	20	27	6	6	15	6			

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

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

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

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, __, 40, 50 → **H**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, __, 18, 21 → **V**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, __, 80, 90 → **A**

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

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, __, 12, 15 → **O**

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

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

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, __, 8, 10 → **E**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, __, 25, 30 → **S**

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

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, __, 70, 80 → **R**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, __, 90, 100 → **U**

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

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, __, 18, 20 → **G**

Scratch space:

CLUE 2

Multi-step word problems

The equipment manager calculated jersey orders across multiple teams to trace the suspect's path.

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

A witness saw the villain was

R									D	E	D	D	R		B	B	L	E
41	9	56	50	26	50	69	61					41	9					

Coach collected 81 training cones in the morning and 1 training cones in the afternoon, then split them equally among 2 squad. How many training cones did each get?

Answer: → **R**

Coach collected 7 whistles in the morning and 243 whistles in the afternoon, then split them equally among 5 squad. How many whistles did each get?

Answer: → **H**

Coach earned 5 sweat towels in each of 5 rounds, plus 49 bonus sweat towels. Then 13 sweat towels were lost. How many sweat towels are left?

Answer: → **N**

There were 153 water bottles in all. 15 water bottles were set aside. The rest were shared equally among 2 squad. How many water bottles did each get?

Answer: → **A**

There were 85 sweat towels in all. 7 sweat towels were set aside. The rest were shared equally among 3 squad. How many sweat towels did each get?

Answer: → **T**

Coach filled 9 boxes with 3 water bottles each, then found 29 more water bottles. How many water bottles are there in all?

Answer: → **G**

Coach earned 4 sweat towels in each of 6 rounds, plus 0 bonus sweat towels. Then 15 sweat towels were lost. How many sweat towels are left?

Answer: → **I**

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

CLUE 4

Word problems

The referee analyzed foul logs and court minutes to narrow down who was near the trophy case.

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

A strand of B O N O W S hair turned up at the scene.

Coach found 10 water bottles yesterday and 107 more today. How many water bottles in all?

Answer: → B

There were 123 sweat towels. 17 were used up. How many sweat towels are left?

Answer: → D

Coach found 19 sweat towels yesterday and 12 more today. How many sweat towels in all?

Answer: → R

Coach found 38 basketballs yesterday and 41 more today. How many basketballs in all?

Answer: → C

There were 119 whistles. 23 were used up. How many whistles are left?

Answer: → A

There were 69 training cones. 5 were used up. How many training cones are left?

Answer: → E

Coach found 50 whistles yesterday and 28 more today. How many whistles in all?

Answer: → I

Scratch space:

CLUE 5**Two-step equations - the last clue**

The arena security chief solved total ticket sales equations to pinpoint the exact seat occupied.

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:

$9x + 11 = 20, x = \boxed{}$

$8x + 6 = 22, x = \boxed{}$

$3x + 4 = 22, x = \boxed{}$

$3x + 5 = 20, x = \boxed{}$

$2x + 3 = 9, x = \boxed{}$

$7x + 5 = 82, x = \boxed{}$

$2x + 8 = 26, x = \boxed{}$

$8x + 8 = 64, x = \boxed{}$

$5x + 4 = 54, x = \boxed{}$

$9x + 8 = 44, x = \boxed{}$

$2x + 9 = 33, x = \boxed{}$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain dropped into a sharp triple threat position, then adjusted a neon wristband.
2. The villain sank a high sky hook shot, then strapped on ankle braces.
3. The villain faked everyone with a no look pass, then strapped on ankle braces.
4. The villain thundered down an alley oop dunk, then pulled on a grip sleeve.
5. The villain thundered down an alley oop dunk, then adjusted a neon wristband.
6. The villain dropped into a sharp triple threat position, then strapped on ankle braces.
7. The villain executed a slick crossover dribble, then laced up glowing sneakers.
8. The villain faked everyone with a no look pass, then laced up glowing sneakers.
9. The villain dropped into a sharp triple threat position, then snagged a padded headband.
10. The villain dropped into a sharp triple threat position, then laced up glowing sneakers.
11. The villain faked everyone with a no look pass, then snagged a padded headband.
12. The villain executed a slick crossover dribble, then snagged a padded headband.

Answer Key

The Championship Trophy Snatch

Culprit: Anthony Edwards

no look pass · glowing sneakers · right handed dribble · braided cornrows · glaring arena spotlight

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 18 → Clue 2 10 → Clue 3 6 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Skip counting): "THE SUSPECT DOES NOT WEAR A GRIP SLEEVE"

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, __, 16, 18 = 14 (T) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, __, 50, 55 = 45 (P) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, __, 36, 39 = 33 (W) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, __, 40, 50 = 30 (H) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, __, 18, 21 = 15 (V) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, __, 80, 90 = 70 (A) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, __, 24, 27 = 21 (N) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, __, 12, 15 = 9 (O) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, __, 30, 33 = 27 (L) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, __, 42, 45 = 39 (I) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, __, 8, 10 = 6 (E) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, __, 25, 30 = 20 (S) · 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 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, __, 70, 80 = 60 (R) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, __, 90, 100 = 80 (U) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, __, 60, 70 = 50 (C) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, __, 18, 20 = 16 (G)

Clue 2 (Multi-step word problems): "RIGHT HANDED DRIBBLE"

Coach collected 81 training cones in the morning and 1 training cones in the afternoon, then split them equally among 2 squad. How many training cones did each get? = 41 (R) · Coach collected 7 whistles in the morning and 243 whistles in the afternoon, then split them equally among 5 squad. How many whistles did each get? = 50 (H) · Coach earned 5 sweat towels in each of 5 rounds, plus 49 bonus sweat towels. Then 13 sweat towels were lost. How many sweat towels are left? = 61 (N) · There were 153 water bottles in all. 15 water bottles were set aside. The rest were shared equally among 2 squad. How many water bottles did each get? = 69 (A) · There were 85 sweat towels in all. 7 sweat towels were set aside. The rest were shared equally among 3 squad. How many sweat towels did each get? = 26 (T) · Coach filled 9 boxes with 3 water bottles each, then found 29 more water bottles. How many water bottles are there in all? = 56 (G) · Coach earned 4 sweat towels in each of 6 rounds, plus 0 bonus sweat towels. Then 15 sweat towels were lost. How many sweat towels are left? = 9 (I)

Clue 3 (Bar model word problems): "GLARING ARENA SPOTLIGHT"

There were 116 training cones in all. 34 training cones were used. How many training cones are left? = 82 (G) · Coach used $\frac{1}{3}$ of the basketballs on the first day. The other 38 basketballs were used the next day. How many basketballs were there in all? = 57 (R) · Coach has 84 sweat towels, packed 3 to a bag. How many bags can be filled? = 28 (I) · Coach has 3 times as many training cones as a teammate. The teammate has 5 training cones. How many training cones does coach have? = 15 (N) · Coach has 10 times as many training cones as a teammate. The teammate has 8 training cones. How many training cones does coach have? = 80 (L) · Coach shares 200 training cones equally among 2 teams. How many training cones does each team get? = 100 (E) · The red team has 79 whistles and the blue team has 8 whistles. How many more whistles does the red team have? = 71 (A)

Clue 4 (Word problems): "BRAIDED CORNROWS"

Coach found 10 water bottles yesterday and 107 more today. How many water bottles in all? = 117 (B) · There were 123 sweat towels. 17 were used up. How many sweat towels are left? = 106 (D) · Coach found 19 sweat towels yesterday and 12 more today. How many sweat towels in all? = 31 (R) · Coach found 38 basketballs yesterday and 41 more today. How many basketballs in all? = 79 (C) · There were 119 whistles. 23 were used up. How many whistles are left? = 96 (A) · There were 69 training cones. 5 were used up. How many training cones are left? = 64 (E) · Coach found 50 whistles yesterday and 28 more today. How many whistles in all? = 78 (I)

Clue 5 (Two-step equations): surviving statement is box 8 → Anthony Edwards

$9x + 11 = 20$, $x = 1$ · $8x + 6 = 22$, $x = 2$ · $3x + 4 = 22$, $x = 6$ · $3x + 5 = 20$, $x = 5$ · $2x + 3 = 9$, $x = 3$ · $7x + 5 = 82$, $x = 11$ · $2x + 8 = 26$, $x = 9$ · $8x + 8 = 64$, $x = 7$ · $5x + 4 = 54$, $x = 10$ · $9x + 8 = 44$, $x = 4$ · $2x + 9 = 33$, $x = 12$