



The Cupcake Castle Caper

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

Someone mixed up all the royal cupcake recipes! The Head Pastry Chef needs your help to find the sneaky Frosting Bandit before the big Sweet Street party begins.

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 Frosting Bandit is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	MAIN BAKING BLAST	SECRET BAKING TOOL	APRON STYLE	FROSTING HAIR COLOR	HOW TO STOP THEM
Billy Batter	Batter Bomber	Candle Glow	Left apron pocket	Blue wave frosting	Clapping loud hands
Chef Charlie	Sugar Shield	Cherry Launcher	Right apron pocket	Pink swirl frosting	Clapping loud hands
Oliver Oven	Frosting Blaster	Cherry Launcher	Right apron pocket	Pink swirl frosting	Squirting lemon juice
Sammy Sweet	Batter Bomber	Cream Squeezer	Right apron pocket	White star frosting	Clapping loud hands
Patty Pan	Sugar Shield	Candle Glow	Left apron pocket	Pink swirl frosting	Blowing a toy fan
Danny Dough	Sugar Shield	Whisk Shield	Right apron pocket	White star frosting	Clapping loud hands
Suzu Swirl	Wrapper Spinner	Jelly Cannon	Right apron pocket	Blue wave frosting	Clapping loud hands
Cupcake Cal	Sugar Shield	Jelly Cannon	Left apron pocket	White star frosting	Squirting lemon juice
Coco Cocoa	Sprinkle Shower	Cherry Launcher	Right apron pocket	Blue wave frosting	Blowing a toy fan
Sprinkles Sam	Batter Bomber	Cream Squeezer	Right apron pocket	Blue wave frosting	Clapping loud hands
Sally Sugar	Frosting Blaster	Jelly Cannon	Left apron pocket	Blue wave frosting	Clapping loud hands
Cherry Chip	Batter Bomber	Jelly Cannon	Right apron pocket	White star frosting	Clapping loud hands
Baker Betty	Sprinkle Shower	Candle Glow	Right apron pocket	Blue wave frosting	Squirting lemon juice
Frosty Fred	Batter Bomber	Cherry Launcher	Right apron pocket	White star frosting	Clapping loud hands
Tammy Tart	Sprinkle Shower	Cream Squeezer	Left apron pocket	Pink swirl frosting	Squirting lemon juice
Molly Muffin	Sugar Shield	Cherry Launcher	Left apron pocket	White star frosting	Blowing a toy fan
Pippa Pink	Sugar Shield	Cream Squeezer	Left apron pocket	White star frosting	Clapping loud hands
Gary Glaze	Wrapper Spinner	Cream Squeezer	Right apron pocket	White star frosting	Clapping loud hands
Timmy Treat	Frosting Blaster	Jelly Cannon	Right apron pocket	White star frosting	Squirting lemon juice
Bella Baker	Sugar Shield	Jelly Cannon	Right apron pocket	Pink swirl frosting	Squirting lemon juice
Wendy Whip	Frosting Blaster	Jelly Cannon	Right apron pocket	Pink swirl frosting	Clapping loud hands

CLUE 1 Addition

We need to count the baking pans. Let us add the big pans and the small pans together to find the total.

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

T								T							T			
3	13	19	10	20	7	4	5	3	4	12	19	8	7	12	3	14	8	19

20	18	13	5	8	9	8	13	5	19	15	4

$1 + 2 = \square \rightarrow \text{T}$

$3 + 10 = \square \rightarrow \text{H}$

$2 + 3 = \square \rightarrow \text{I}$

$5 + 4 = \square \rightarrow \text{K}$

$4 + 6 = \square \rightarrow \text{B}$

$4 + 3 = \square \rightarrow \text{N}$

$9 + 10 = \square \rightarrow \text{E}$

$7 + 11 = \square \rightarrow \text{W}$

$10 + 4 = \square \rightarrow \text{U}$

$4 + 8 = \square \rightarrow \text{O}$

$7 + 8 = \square \rightarrow \text{L}$

$2 + 2 = \square \rightarrow \text{D}$

$14 + 6 = \square \rightarrow \text{A}$

$4 + 4 = \square \rightarrow \text{S}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 2

Subtraction

Some sweet cupcakes are missing. We had a full tray but we must subtract the ones the bandit ate.

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

T									T									T
19	10	8	18	11	12	3	1	19	10	11	6	11	16	1	14	10	19	

										T
11	5	16	17	12	5	17	15	13	8	19

$20 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$12 - 6 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$14 - 6 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$19 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

$14 - 4 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$19 - 6 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{K}}$

$11 - 8 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$17 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$

$17 - 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$15 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$15 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{G}}$

$15 - 4 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$4 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$12 - 7 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{P}}$

$20 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Word problems

Let us solve this sweet word problem. Read the story about the sprinkles to find the secret number.

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

Someone scared the villain off with

C									O	U	D	H			D	S
37	11	21	14	14	33	15	35	11					21	15		

Chef Bella found 33 baking pans yesterday and 4 more today. How many baking pans in all?

Answer: → **C**

Chef Bella found 2 sprinkles yesterday and 13 more today. How many sprinkles in all?

Answer: → **N**

Chef Bella lined up 7 rows of 2 frosting bags. How many frosting bags in all?

Answer: → **P**

There were 37 baking pans. 4 were used up. How many baking pans are left?

Answer: → **I**

There were 19 frosting bags. 8 were used up. How many frosting bags are left?

Answer: → **L**

Chef Bella lined up 7 rows of 3 cupcakes. How many cupcakes in all?

Answer: → **A**

Chef Bella found 15 sprinkles yesterday and 20 more today. How many sprinkles in all?

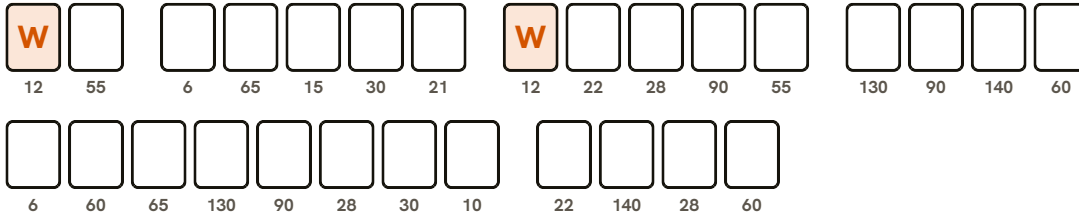
Answer: → **G**

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Skip counting

The cherries on the shelf are in neat rows of two. Skip count by twos to find how many we have.

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



Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, __, 14, 16 → **W**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, __, 20, 25 → **U**

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

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

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

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

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, __, 140, 150 → **S**

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



F

Scratch space:

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

Our cake recipe needs ten cups of flour. We only have six cups so how many more cups do we need to find.

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:

$2 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

$8 + \underline{\quad} = 19$

$4 + \underline{\quad} = 6$

$3 + \underline{\quad} = 7$

$9 + \underline{\quad} = 15$

$1 + \underline{\quad} = 13$

$6 + \underline{\quad} = 14$

$9 + \underline{\quad} = 16$

$9 + \underline{\quad} = 14$

$2 + \underline{\quad} = 5$

$2 + \underline{\quad} = 3$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain splats cake batter on the walls, then lights up a shiny birthday candle.
2. The villain splats cake batter on the walls, then fires a blast of sweet grape jelly.
3. The villain sprays sticky pink frosting, then fires a blast of sweet grape jelly.
4. The villain makes a barrier of sweet sugar, then fires a blast of sweet grape jelly.
5. The villain sprays sticky pink frosting, then shoots a red cherry high in the air.
6. The villain spins a trap of shiny paper wrappers, then blocks the door with a giant whisk.
7. The villain splats cake batter on the walls, then blocks the door with a giant whisk.
8. The villain throws giant rainbow sprinkles, then blocks the door with a giant whisk.
9. The villain splats cake batter on the walls, then shoots a red cherry high in the air.
10. The villain splats cake batter on the walls, then squeezes a big cloud of whipped cream.
11. The villain spins a trap of shiny paper wrappers, then squeezes a big cloud of whipped cream.
12. The villain sprays sticky pink frosting, then squeezes a big cloud of whipped cream.

Answer Key

The Cupcake Castle Caper

Culprit: Sammy Sweet

Batter Bomber · Cream Squeezer · Right apron pocket · White star frosting · Clapping loud hands

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 20 → Clue 2 13 → Clue 3 8 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Addition): "THE BANDIT DOES NOT USE A WHISK SHIELD"

$1 + 2 = 3$ (T) · $3 + 10 = 13$ (H) · $2 + 3 = 5$ (I) · $5 + 4 = 9$ (K) · $4 + 6 = 10$ (B) · $4 + 3 = 7$ (N) · $9 + 10 = 19$ (E) · $7 + 11 = 18$ (W) · $10 + 4 = 14$ (U) · $4 + 8 = 12$ (O) · $7 + 8 = 15$ (L) · $2 + 2 = 4$ (D) · $14 + 6 = 20$ (A) · $4 + 4 = 8$ (S)

Clue 2 (Subtraction): "THE BANDIT HAS A RIGHT APRON POCKET"

$20 - 1 = 19$ (T) · $12 - 6 = 6$ (S) · $14 - 6 = 8$ (E) · $19 - 1 = 18$ (B) · $14 - 4 = 10$ (H) · $19 - 6 = 13$ (K) · $11 - 8 = 3$ (D) · $17 - 1 = 16$ (R) · $17 - 2 = 15$ (C) · $15 - 3 = 12$ (N) · $15 - 1 = 14$ (G) · $15 - 4 = 11$ (A) · $4 - 3 = 1$ (I) · $12 - 7 = 5$ (P) · $20 - 3 = 17$ (O)

Clue 3 (Word problems): "CLAPPING LOUD HANDS"

Chef Bella found 33 baking pans yesterday and 4 more today. How many baking pans in all? = 37 (C) · Chef Bella found 2 sprinkles yesterday and 13 more today. How many sprinkles in all? = 15 (N) · Chef Bella lined up 7 rows of 2 frosting bags. How many frosting bags in all? = 14 (P) · There were 37 baking pans. 4 were used up. How many baking pans are left? = 33 (I) · There were 19 frosting bags. 8 were used up. How many frosting bags are left? = 11 (L) · Chef Bella lined up 7 rows of 3 cupcakes. How many cupcakes in all? = 21 (A) · Chef Bella found 15 sprinkles yesterday and 20 more today. How many sprinkles in all? = 35 (G)

Clue 4 (Skip counting): "WE FOUND WHITE STAR FROSTING HAIR"

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

Clue 5 (Missing addends): surviving statement is box 10 → Sammy Sweet

$2 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 9$ · $8 + \underline{\quad} = 19 = 11$ · $4 + \underline{\quad} = 6 = 2$ · $3 + \underline{\quad} = 7 = 4$ · $9 + \underline{\quad} = 15 = 6$ · $1 + \underline{\quad} = 13 = 12$ · $6 + \underline{\quad} = 14 = 8$ · $9 + \underline{\quad} = 16 = 7$ · $9 + \underline{\quad} = 14 = 5$ · $2 + \underline{\quad} = 5 = 3$ · $2 + \underline{\quad} = 3 = 1$