



The Golden Pearl Caper

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

The legendary Golden Pearl of Coral Cove has been snatched! A sneaky sea thief swam off with it under the cover of the tide. We must search the reef and find the culprit before they escape to the deep ocean.

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 sea thief is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	SEA MAGIC	PIRATE GEAR	HOOK HAND	HAIR COLOR	WEAKNESS
Nerida the Swift	tide calling	map reading	right handed hook	seashell pink hair	scared of crabs
Long John Silver	tide calling	anchor throw	right handed hook	kelp green hair	tickled by seaweed
Delphine the Wise	bubble trap	eel taming	right handed hook	starfish red hair	scared of crabs
Shelly Wave	bubble trap	eel taming	right handed hook	seashell pink hair	tickled by seaweed
Marina Blue	bubble trap	map reading	left handed hook	starfish red hair	sneezes from salt
Patchy the Pirate	ship wrecking	clam shield	right handed hook	kelp green hair	sneezes from salt
Mary Read	coral shaping	anchor throw	right handed hook	starfish red hair	sneezes from salt
Pearl of the Deep	coral shaping	anchor throw	right handed hook	seashell pink hair	tickled by seaweed
Aqua Star	coral shaping	map reading	right handed hook	seashell pink hair	scared of crabs
Billy Bones	coral shaping	clam shield	right handed hook	starfish red hair	scared of crabs
Gulliver Gold	tide calling	anchor throw	left handed hook	kelp green hair	sneezes from salt
Siren Sofia	ship wrecking	clam shield	right handed hook	seashell pink hair	sneezes from salt
Triton Junior	fog spinning	spyglass zoom	right handed hook	seashell pink hair	tickled by seaweed
Captain Redbeard	bubble trap	clam shield	right handed hook	seashell pink hair	sneezes from salt
Barnaby Hook	fog spinning	clam shield	right handed hook	seashell pink hair	tickled by seaweed
Captain Pegleg Pete	coral shaping	map reading	right handed hook	starfish red hair	scared of crabs
Captain Blackbeard	bubble trap	spyglass zoom	left handed hook	starfish red hair	sneezes from salt
Captain Calico Jack	coral shaping	clam shield	right handed hook	seashell pink hair	scared of crabs
Scurvy Sam	fog spinning	anchor throw	left handed hook	seashell pink hair	sneezes from salt
Kailani Tide	coral shaping	map reading	right handed hook	seashell pink hair	tickled by seaweed
Wavelet Wendy	bubble trap	map reading	left handed hook	seashell pink hair	tickled by seaweed

CLUE 1 Rounding

Our underwater radar only shows rounded numbers of glowing jellyfish, but it gave us our first clue.

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

T			T															
4000	600	6000	4000	600	8000	6000	40	700	60	6000	300	400	60	4000	7000	300	6000	20

500	9000	20	2000	300	600	8000	6000	9000	700

Round 3,994 to the nearest thousand →

T

Round 285 to the nearest hundred →

S

Round 579 to the nearest hundred →

H

Round 2,476 to the nearest thousand →

M

Round 491 to the nearest hundred →

C

Round 62 to the nearest ten →

O

Round 9,490 to the nearest thousand →

L

Round 7,552 to the nearest thousand →

I

Round 36 to the nearest ten →

F

Round 6,293 to the nearest thousand →

E

Round 446 to the nearest hundred →

N

Round 6,504 to the nearest thousand →

U

Round 664 to the nearest hundred →

D

Round 17 to the nearest ten →

A

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Addition

We gathered up all the dropped gold coins from the seabed to add them up for our next clue.

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

T						T									
608	563	288	436	972	849	608	271	563	288	490	620	436	288	793	849

				T											
490	697	787	563	608	563	849	972	793	288	793	563	677	677	546	

$343 + 265 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$341 + 508 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$271 + 275 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{K}}$

$268 + 222 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$

$407 + 213 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{U}}$

$87 + 184 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$416 + 371 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{G}}$

$224 + 473 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$307 + 486 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$555 + 417 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$216 + 347 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$219 + 217 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$128 + 160 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$472 + 205 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Subtraction

We opened the wooden jewelry chest to see how many precious pearls were taken by the thief.

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

T			T								T						
399	883	838	399	883	187	838	574	568	227	203	399	187	414	141	477	838	808

858	592	203	838	227	568	838	808

$409 - 10 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$1031 - 193 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$498 - 84 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$852 - 375 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{L}}$

$536 - 333 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$840 - 266 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$

$1052 - 169 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$373 - 146 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$1148 - 340 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$422 - 281 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{K}}$

$1137 - 279 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

$647 - 79 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$

$570 - 383 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$674 - 82 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{Y}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 4
Multiplication facts (1-12)

We counted the neat rows of wooden barrels on the pirate deck to find the next secret message.

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

W																		
84	9	18	72	108	42	2	48	9	3	48	121	9	96	96	55	10	42	66
121	3	10	70	3	81	81	121	9	48	15	9	42	9					

$7 \times 12 = \square \rightarrow \text{W}$

$11 \times 11 = \square \rightarrow \text{H}$

$12 \times 8 = \square \rightarrow \text{L}$

$9 \times 2 = \square \rightarrow \text{F}$

$1 \times 3 = \square \rightarrow \text{A}$

$10 \times 7 = \square \rightarrow \text{R}$

$9 \times 9 = \square \rightarrow \text{T}$

$1 \times 2 = \square \rightarrow \text{D}$

$2 \times 5 = \square \rightarrow \text{I}$

$3 \times 3 = \square \rightarrow \text{E}$

$9 \times 8 = \square \rightarrow \text{O}$

$9 \times 12 = \square \rightarrow \text{U}$

$4 \times 12 = \square \rightarrow \text{S}$

$11 \times 5 = \square \rightarrow \text{P}$

$3 \times 5 = \square \rightarrow \text{C}$

$7 \times 6 = \square \rightarrow \text{N}$

$6 \times 11 = \square \rightarrow \text{K}$

Scratch space:

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

We shared the sand dollars equally among our helper sea turtles to get the final hint.

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:

$77 \div 7 = \boxed{}$

$12 \div 1 = \boxed{}$

$33 \div 11 = \boxed{}$

$32 \div 8 = \boxed{}$

$9 \div 1 = \boxed{}$

$4 \div 4 = \boxed{}$

$96 \div 12 = \boxed{}$

$66 \div 11 = \boxed{}$

$63 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$55 \div 11 = \boxed{}$

$12 \div 6 = \boxed{}$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain spun a thick white fog, then blocked the path with a clam shield.
2. The villain crashed a wooden ship, then tossed a heavy iron anchor.
3. The villain grew sharp coral walls, then tossed a heavy iron anchor.
4. The villain spun a thick white fog, then tossed a heavy iron anchor.
5. The villain crashed a wooden ship, then looked through a gold spyglass.
6. The villain summoned a giant tide, then checked a secret treasure map.
7. The villain summoned a giant tide, then commanded a pet electric eel.
8. The villain crashed a wooden ship, then blocked the path with a clam shield.
9. The villain trapped the guard in a bubble, then looked through a gold spyglass.
10. The villain spun a thick white fog, then looked through a gold spyglass.
11. The villain trapped the guard in a bubble, then commanded a pet electric eel.
12. The villain grew sharp coral walls, then checked a secret treasure map.

Answer Key

The Golden Pearl Caper

Culprit: Triton Junior

fog spinning · spyglass zoom · right handed hook · seashell pink hair · tickled by seaweed

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 15 → Clue 2 10 → Clue 3 5 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Rounding): "THE THIEF DOES NOT USE A CLAM SHIELD"

Round 3,994 to the nearest thousand = 4000 (T) · Round 285 to the nearest hundred = 300 (S) · Round 579 to the nearest hundred = 600 (H) · Round 2,476 to the nearest thousand = 2000 (M) · Round 491 to the nearest hundred = 500 (C) · Round 62 to the nearest ten = 60 (O) · Round 9,490 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (L) · Round 7,552 to the nearest thousand = 8000 (I) · Round 36 to the nearest ten = 40 (F) · Round 6,293 to the nearest thousand = 6000 (E) · Round 446 to the nearest hundred = 400 (N) · Round 6,504 to the nearest thousand = 7000 (U) · Round 664 to the nearest hundred = 700 (D) · Round 17 to the nearest ten = 20 (A)

Clue 2 (Addition): "THE SNATCHER USED A RIGHT HANDED HOOK"

$343 + 265 = 608$ (T) · $341 + 508 = 849$ (A) · $271 + 275 = 546$ (K) · $268 + 222 = 490$ (R) · $407 + 213 = 620$ (U) · $87 + 184 = 271$ (C) · $416 + 371 = 787$ (G) · $224 + 473 = 697$ (I) · $307 + 486 = 793$ (D) · $555 + 417 = 972$ (N) · $216 + 347 = 563$ (H) · $219 + 217 = 436$ (S) · $128 + 160 = 288$ (E) · $472 + 205 = 677$ (O)

Clue 3 (Subtraction): "THE THIEF WAS TICKLED BY SEAWEED"

$409 - 10 = 399$ (T) · $1031 - 193 = 838$ (E) · $498 - 84 = 414$ (C) · $852 - 375 = 477$ (L) · $536 - 333 = 203$ (S) · $840 - 266 = 574$ (F) · $1052 - 169 = 883$ (H) · $373 - 146 = 227$ (A) · $1148 - 340 = 808$ (D) · $422 - 281 = 141$ (K) · $1137 - 279 = 858$ (B) · $647 - 79 = 568$ (W) · $570 - 383 = 187$ (I) · $674 - 82 = 592$ (Y)

Clue 4 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "WE FOUND SEASHELL PINK HAIR AT THE SCENE"

$7 \times 12 = 84$ (W) · $11 \times 11 = 121$ (H) · $12 \times 8 = 96$ (L) · $9 \times 2 = 18$ (F) · $1 \times 3 = 3$ (A) · $10 \times 7 = 70$ (R) · $9 \times 9 = 81$ (T) · $1 \times 2 = 2$ (D) · $2 \times 5 = 10$ (I) · $3 \times 3 = 9$ (E) · $9 \times 8 = 72$ (O) · $9 \times 12 = 108$ (U) · $4 \times 12 = 48$ (S) · $11 \times 5 = 55$ (P) · $3 \times 5 = 15$ (C) · $7 \times 6 = 42$ (N) · $6 \times 11 = 66$ (K)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 10 → Triton Junior

$77 \div 7 = 11$ · $12 \div 1 = 12$ · $33 \div 11 = 3$ · $32 \div 8 = 4$ · $9 \div 1 = 9$ · $4 \div 4 = 1$ · $96 \div 12 = 8$ · $66 \div 11 = 6$ · $63 \div 9 = 7$ · $55 \div 11 = 5$ · $12 \div 6 = 2$