The Great Pony Show Mystery

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

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

Someone took the golden trophy right before the big pony parade! Search the barn to find out who did 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 Trophy Bandit is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	RIDING GEAR	PONY TREAT	REIN GRIP	CAP COLOR	PONY SCARE
Rosie Reins	Golden Bridle	Oat Bucket	Left Hand Grip	Brown Cap	Loud Whistle
Will Whip	Soft Brush	Oat Bucket	Left Hand Grip	Brown Cap	Loud Whistle
Ian Iron	Brass Horseshoe	Sugar Cube	Left Hand Grip	Black Cap	Shiny Shield
Ulysses Yard	Brass Horseshoe	Crisp Apple	Left Hand Grip	Blonde Cap	Loud Whistle
Milo Meadow	Silver Saddle	Fresh Clover	Left Hand Grip	Blonde Cap	Loud Whistle
Kevin Knight	Silver Saddle	Crisp Apple	Left Hand Grip	Blonde Cap	Rustling Bag
Bella Bell	Soft Brush	Sweet Carrot	Left Hand Grip	Blonde Cap	Loud Whistle
Lulu Lasso	Silver Saddle	Oat Bucket	Left Hand Grip	Blonde Cap	Rustling Bag
Barnaby Barn	Silver Saddle	Crisp Apple	Right Hand Grip	Blonde Cap	Loud Whistle
Hannah Hay	Fancy Ribbon	Sugar Cube	Right Hand Grip	Blonde Cap	Rustling Bag
Ethan Oats	Brass Horseshoe	Sugar Cube	Left Hand Grip	Blonde Cap	Loud Whistle
Fiona Field	Golden Bridle	Sugar Cube	Left Hand Grip	Black Cap	Loud Whistle
Gabe Groom	Silver Saddle	Fresh Clover	Right Hand Grip	Black Cap	Shiny Shield
Tess Trotter	Soft Brush	Fresh Clover	Left Hand Grip	Blonde Cap	Rustling Bag
Charlie Trot	Silver Saddle	Sugar Cube	Right Hand Grip	Black Cap	Loud Whistle
Nora Neigh	Brass Horseshoe	Oat Bucket	Left Hand Grip	Brown Cap	Shiny Shield
Jenny Jump	Soft Brush	Sweet Carrot	Left Hand Grip	Brown Cap	Rustling Bag
Zoe Zone	Silver Saddle	Oat Bucket	Right Hand Grip	Black Cap	Rustling Bag
Daisy Mane	Fancy Ribbon	Sweet Carrot	Right Hand Grip	Black Cap	Shiny Shield
Quinn Rider	Fancy Ribbon	Crisp Apple	Left Hand Grip	Blonde Cap	Loud Whistle
Sam Saddle	Soft Brush	Sweet Carrot	Right Hand Grip	Brown Cap	Shiny Shield

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CLUE 1 Place value

Check the tens and ones on the barn stall signs to find the first clue.

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

T			T										T						
26	36	20	26	36	52	20	93	92	59	20	25	96	59	26	39	25	20		

25	39	54	56	14	71	39	45	20

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

What number has 7 tens and 1 one? ☐ → C

What number has 9 tens and 2 ones? ☐ → D

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

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

What number has 2 tens and 0 ones? ☐ → E

What number has 5 tens and 6 ones? ☐ → A

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

What number has 1 ten and 4 ones? ☐ → R

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

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

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

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

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

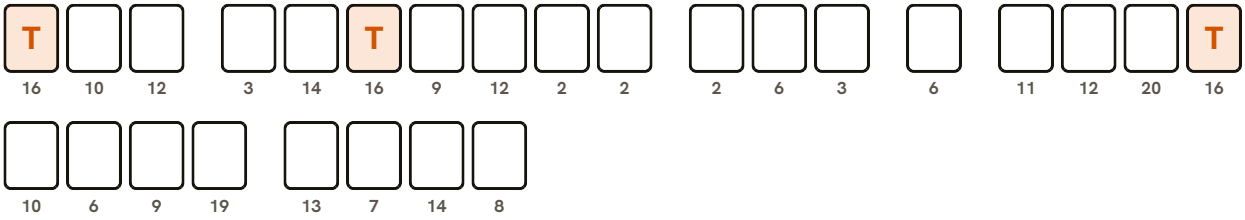
What number has 9 tens and 3 ones? ☐ → F

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Addition

> Add up all the hay bales stacked in the yard to get more proof.

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



12 + 4 = ☐ → T

7 + 13 = ☐ → F

8 + 4 = ☐ → E

6 + 4 = ☐ → H

3 + 6 = ☐ → N

13 + 6 = ☐ → D

7 + 6 = ☐ → G

1 + 2 = ☐ → W

4 + 2 = ☐ → A

5 + 9 = ☐ → I

3 + 4 = ☐ → R

1 + 1 = ☐ → S

8 + 3 = ☐ → L

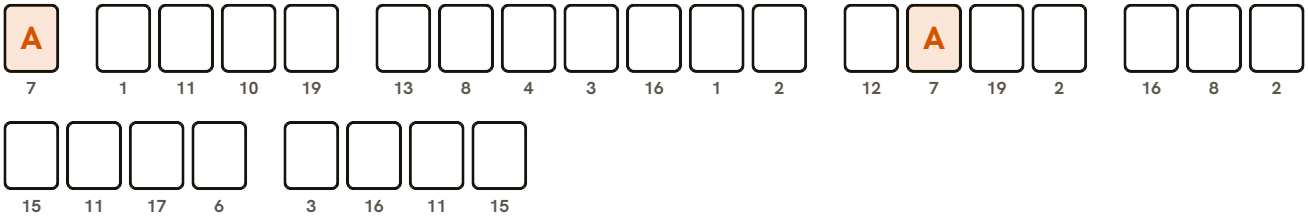
2 + 6 = ☐ → P

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Subtraction

Subtract the missing horseshoes to reveal what happened.

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



14 - 7 = ☐ → A

20 - 1 = ☐ → D

15 - 9 = ☐ → Y

10 - 7 = ☐ → S

6 - 2 = ☐ → I

17 - 2 = ☐ → P

14 - 2 = ☐ → M

8 - 6 = ☐ → E

5 - 4 = ☐ → L

20 - 4 = ☐ → T

20 - 3 = ☐ → N

16 - 6 = ☐ → U

17 - 9 = ☐ → H

18 - 7 = ☐ → O

17 - 4 = ☐ → W

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Word problems

Solve the pony feeding story to uncover the next hint.

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

A strand of

B							A	P
14	10	19	32	34	31	36		

hair turned up at the scene.

There were 23 brushes. 9 were used up. How many brushes are left?

Answer: ☐ → B

Stable groom lined up 3 rows of 12 apples. How many apples in all?

Answer: ☐ → C

Stable groom found 28 ribbons yesterday and 3 more today. How many ribbons in all?

Answer: ☐ → E

Stable groom lined up 5 rows of 2 ribbons. How many ribbons in all?

Answer: ☐ → L

Stable groom lined up 8 rows of 4 ribbons. How many ribbons in all?

Answer: ☐ → N

Stable groom found 8 apples yesterday and 11 more today. How many apples in all?

Answer: ☐ → O

There were 43 brushes. 9 were used up. How many brushes are left?

Answer: ☐ → D

Scratch space:

CLUE 5 Missing addends - the last clue

Find the missing number of apples to solve the final clue.

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:

10 + ___ = 12 ☐ | 4 + ___ = 13 ☐ | 10 + ___ = 22 ☐ | 3 + ___ = 14 ☐

7 + ___ = 8 ☐ | 5 + ___ = 12 ☐ | 4 + ___ = 8 ☐ | 9 + ___ = 15 ☐ | 5 + ___ = 8 ☐

1 + ___ = 11 ☐ | 9 + ___ = 17 ☐

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain buckled the silver saddle, then filled an oat bucket.
2. The villain pinned on the fancy ribbon, then fed a crisp apple.
3. The villain dropped the brass horseshoe, then picked fresh clover.
4. The villain pinned on the fancy ribbon, then offered a sweet carrot.
5. The villain dropped the brass horseshoe, then fed a crisp apple.
6. The villain buckled the silver saddle, then shared a sugar cube.
7. The villain cleaned with the soft brush, then filled an oat bucket.
8. The villain adjusted the golden bridle, then filled an oat bucket.
9. The villain buckled the silver saddle, then picked fresh clover.
10. The villain cleaned with the soft brush, then picked fresh clover.
11. The villain pinned on the fancy ribbon, then shared a sugar cube.
12. The villain cleaned with the soft brush, then offered a sweet carrot.

TEACHER / PARENT

Answer Key

The Great Pony Show Mystery

Culprit: Ulysses Yard

Brass Horseshoe · Crisp Apple · Left Hand Grip · Blonde Cap · Loud Whistle

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 16 → Clue 2 11 → Clue 3 6 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Place value): "THE THIEF DOES NOT USE SUGAR CUBE"

What number has 2 tens and 6 ones? = 26 (T) · What number has 7 tens and 1 one? = 71 (C) · What number has 9 tens and 2 ones? = 92 (D) · What number has 5 tens and 4 ones? = 54 (G) · What number has 9 tens and 6 ones? = 96 (N) · What number has 2 tens and 0 ones? = 20 (E) · What number has 5 tens and 6 ones? = 56 (A) · What number has 3 tens and 9 ones? = 39 (U) · What number has 1 ten and 4 ones? = 14 (R) · What number has 2 tens and 5 ones? = 25 (S) · What number has 5 tens and 2 ones? = 52 (I) · What number has 3 tens and 6 ones? = 36 (H) · What number has 4 tens and 5 ones? = 45 (B) · What number has 5 tens and 9 ones? = 59 (O) · What number has 9 tens and 3 ones? = 93 (F)

Clue 2 (Addition): "THE WITNESS SAW A LEFT HAND GRIP"

12 + 4 = 16 (T) · 7 + 13 = 20 (F) · 8 + 4 = 12 (E) · 6 + 4 = 10 (H) · 3 + 6 = 9 (N) · 13 + 6 = 19 (D) · 7 + 6 = 13 (G) · 1 + 2 = 3 (W) · 4 + 2 = 6 (A) · 5 + 9 = 14 (I) · 3 + 4 = 7 (R) · 1 + 1 = 2 (S) · 8 + 3 = 11 (L) · 2 + 6 = 8 (P)

Clue 3 (Subtraction): "A LOUD WHISTLE MADE THE PONY STOP"

14 - 7 = 7 (A) · 20 - 1 = 19 (D) · 15 - 9 = 6 (Y) · 10 - 7 = 3 (S) · 6 - 2 = 4 (I) · 17 - 2 = 15 (P) · 14 - 2 = 12 (M) · 8 - 6 = 2 (E) · 5 - 4 = 1 (L) · 20 - 4 = 16 (T) · 20 - 3 = 17 (N) · 16 - 6 = 10 (U) · 17 - 9 = 8 (H) · 18 - 7 = 11 (O) · 17 - 4 = 13 (W)

Clue 4 (Word problems): "BLONDE CAP"

There were 23 brushes. 9 were used up. How many brushes are left? = 14 (B) · Stable groom lined up 3 rows of 12 apples. How many apples in all? = 36 (C) · Stable groom found 28 ribbons yesterday and 3 more today. How many ribbons in all? = 31 (E) · Stable groom lined up 5 rows of 2 ribbons. How many ribbons in all? = 10 (L) · Stable groom lined up 8 rows of 4 ribbons. How many ribbons in all? = 32 (N) · Stable groom found 8 apples yesterday and 11 more today. How many apples in all? = 19 (O) · There were 43 brushes. 9 were used up. How many brushes are left? = 34 (D)

Clue 5 (Missing addends): surviving statement is box 5 → Ulysses Yard

10 + ___ = 12 = 2 · 4 + ___ = 13 = 9 · 10 + ___ = 22 = 12 · 3 + ___ = 14 = 11 · 7 + ___ = 8 = 1 · 5 + ___ = 12 = 7 · 4 + ___ = 8 = 4 · 9 + ___ = 15 = 6 · 5 + ___ = 8 = 3 · 1 + ___ = 11 = 10 · 9 + ___ = 17 = 8