



The Great Pumpkin Caper

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

The legendary Giant Prize Pumpkin has vanished from the festival pedestal right before the big weigh-in! We must search the patch, gather clues, and find the culprit before sunset.

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 Pumpkin Thief is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	PUMPKIN POWER	SPECIAL SKILL	HANDEDNESS	STEM STYLE	SORE SPOT
Wendy Witch	Spiced Smelling	Leaf Whistling	Left Handed	Brown Stem Hair	Salty Water
Cindy Squash	Vine Tangling	Stem Snapping	Right Handed	Green Vine Hair	Pie Scooper
Sally Seed	Vine Tangling	Leaf Whistling	Left Handed	Orange Silk Hair	Pie Scooper
Tom Thomas	Gourd Growing	Pie Throwing	Left Handed	Brown Stem Hair	Salty Water
Benny Baker	Vine Tangling	Leaf Whistling	Right Handed	Brown Stem Hair	Salty Water
Steve Scarecrow	Gourd Growing	Seed Spitting	Left Handed	Green Vine Hair	Bright Sun
Penny Pumpkin	Vine Tangling	Pie Throwing	Left Handed	Orange Silk Hair	Salty Water
Gail Gourd	Glow Shining	Seed Spitting	Left Handed	Brown Stem Hair	Salty Water
Spiced Sam	Glow Shining	Pie Throwing	Left Handed	Orange Silk Hair	Pie Scooper
Pippa Pie	Vine Tangling	Stem Snapping	Left Handed	Green Vine Hair	Salty Water
Hayden Hay	Seed Blasting	Pie Throwing	Left Handed	Orange Silk Hair	Bright Sun
Jack Lantern	Glow Shining	Stem Snapping	Right Handed	Orange Silk Hair	Pie Scooper
Vinnie Vine	Spiced Smelling	Pumpkin Carving	Left Handed	Brown Stem Hair	Bright Sun
Carver Kyle	Spiced Smelling	Stem Snapping	Right Handed	Orange Silk Hair	Bright Sun
Patty Patch	Seed Blasting	Seed Spitting	Right Handed	Brown Stem Hair	Pie Scooper
Billy Baker	Gourd Growing	Stem Snapping	Left Handed	Brown Stem Hair	Salty Water
Autumn Orange	Glow Shining	Pumpkin Carving	Left Handed	Green Vine Hair	Bright Sun
Gordon Gourd	Glow Shining	Stem Snapping	Right Handed	Brown Stem Hair	Salty Water
Sienna Seed	Vine Tangling	Pie Throwing	Right Handed	Brown Stem Hair	Bright Sun
Rusty Rake	Seed Blasting	Leaf Whistling	Left Handed	Brown Stem Hair	Salty Water
Pippin Patch	Glow Shining	Pumpkin Carving	Right Handed	Green Vine Hair	Salty Water

CLUE 1

Multiplication facts (1-12)

We found rows of ruined pumpkin beds. The thief ran down several rows, stomping the same number of pumpkins in each row. Let us multiply the rows to find how many pumpkins were crushed.

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

T			T											T				T
70	50	77	70	50	10	77	7	40	36	77	27	63	36	70	27	120	10	70
27	77	77	40	27														

$7 \times 10 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$9 \times 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$8 \times 5 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$11 \times 7 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$10 \times 12 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{P}}$

$7 \times 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$

$9 \times 7 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$5 \times 10 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$1 \times 10 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$9 \times 4 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 2

The bakery needs more pumpkin spice for the festival pies. Let us add up all the jars left in the pantry to see if we have enough to keep baking.

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

$$236 + 401 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$$

$$242 + 393 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{V}}$$

$$210 + 152 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$$

$$239 + 357 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$$

$$225 + 141 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{R}}$$

$$370 + 219 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$$

$$96 + 220 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$$

$$639 + 297 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{L}}$$

$$200 + 307 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$$

$86 + 158 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$$587 + 278 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$$

$$260 + 364 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$$

$$458 + 373 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$$

$$246 + 158 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3
Subtraction

A squirrel took some of our prized seeds from the supply sack. Subtract the seeds we have left from the total we started with to find out how many are missing.

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

T 444	378	446	T 444	378	430	446	431	729	277	282	277	236	277	285	431	729	772	644
417	277	331	T 444	285	236	277	T 444	446	729									

$743 - 299 = \square \rightarrow \text{T}$

$834 - 62 = \square \rightarrow \text{O}$

$682 - 252 = \square \rightarrow \text{I}$

$780 - 334 = \square \rightarrow \text{E}$

$323 - 38 = \square \rightarrow \text{Y}$

$331 - 95 = \square \rightarrow \text{W}$

$738 - 9 = \square \rightarrow \text{R}$

$424 - 142 = \square \rightarrow \text{N}$

$607 - 229 = \square \rightarrow \text{H}$

$565 - 234 = \square \rightarrow \text{L}$

$824 - 180 = \square \rightarrow \text{M}$

$623 - 346 = \square \rightarrow \text{A}$

$754 - 323 = \square \rightarrow \text{F}$

$554 - 137 = \square \rightarrow \text{S}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Rounding

The digital scale at the weigh-in station is slightly broken. It only shows the weight rounded to the nearest ten pounds. Let us round the true weight to get the scale reading.

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

W										W						
90	6000	4000	9000	8000	70	50	3000	40	20	9000	90	70	600	400	6000	30
400	5000	6000	600	60	6000	70	6000									

Round 92 to the nearest ten → **W**

Round 6,343 to the nearest thousand → **E**

Round 38 to the nearest ten → **B**

Round 27 to the nearest ten → **M**

Round 605 to the nearest hundred → **S**

Round 18 to the nearest ten → **R**

Round 3,969 to the nearest thousand → **F**

Round 4,812 to the nearest thousand → **H**

Round 71 to the nearest ten → **N**

Round 7,606 to the nearest thousand → **U**

Round 3,076 to the nearest thousand → **A**

Round 8,519 to the nearest thousand → **O**

Round 59 to the nearest ten → **C**

Round 353 to the nearest hundred → **T**

Round 51 to the nearest ten → **D**

Scratch space:

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

We need a certain number of orange ribbons to decorate the main tent. We have some ribbons already, but we need to find how many more we must buy to reach our target.

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:

$8 + \underline{\quad} = 10$

$7 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

$1 + \underline{\quad} = 4$

$5 + \underline{\quad} = 17$

$7 + \underline{\quad} = 12$

$9 + \underline{\quad} = 18$

$5 + \underline{\quad} = 6$

$6 + \underline{\quad} = 12$

$4 + \underline{\quad} = 15$

$3 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

$4 + \underline{\quad} = 14$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain tangles the paths with thick green vines, then carves scary faces into nearby squashes.
2. The villain grows massive gourds to block the road, then snaps dry pumpkin stems along the trail.
3. The villain grows massive gourds to block the road, then throws fresh pumpkin pies at the guards.
4. The villain fills the air with sweet pumpkin spice scent, then whistles a spooky tune through dry autumn leaves.
5. The villain fills the air with sweet pumpkin spice scent, then spits giant slippery seeds onto the floor.
6. The villain lights up the dark with a jackolantern face, then whistles a spooky tune through dry autumn leaves.
7. The villain blasts sticky pumpkin seeds everywhere, then whistles a spooky tune through dry autumn leaves.
8. The villain lights up the dark with a jackolantern face, then spits giant slippery seeds onto the floor.
9. The villain blasts sticky pumpkin seeds everywhere, then snaps dry pumpkin stems along the trail.
10. The villain blasts sticky pumpkin seeds everywhere, then carves scary faces into nearby squashes.
11. The villain blasts sticky pumpkin seeds everywhere, then spits giant slippery seeds onto the floor.
12. The villain tangles the paths with thick green vines, then spits giant slippery seeds onto the floor.

Answer Key

The Great Pumpkin Caper

Culprit: Rusty Rake

Seed Blasting · Leaf Whistling · Left Handed · Brown Stem Hair · Salty Water

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 18 → Clue 2 11 → Clue 3 6 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "THE THIEF DOES NOT SPIT SEEDS"

$7 \times 10 = 70$ (T) · $9 \times 3 = 27$ (S) · $8 \times 5 = 40$ (D) · $11 \times 7 = 77$ (E) · $10 \times 12 = 120$ (P) · $7 \times 1 = 7$ (F) · $9 \times 7 = 63$ (N) · $5 \times 10 = 50$ (H) · $1 \times 10 = 10$ (I) · $9 \times 4 = 36$ (O)

Clue 2 (Addition): "THE VILLAIN CARVES WITH THE LEFT HAND"

$236 + 401 = 637$ (T) · $242 + 393 = 635$ (V) · $210 + 152 = 362$ (C) · $239 + 357 = 596$ (W) · $225 + 141 = 366$ (R) · $370 + 219 = 589$ (H) · $96 + 220 = 316$ (F) · $639 + 297 = 936$ (L) · $200 + 307 = 507$ (D) · $86 + 158 = 244$ (E) · $587 + 278 = 865$ (A) · $260 + 364 = 624$ (I) · $458 + 373 = 831$ (S) · $246 + 158 = 404$ (N)

Clue 3 (Subtraction): "THE THIEF RAN AWAY FROM SALTY WATER"

$743 - 299 = 444$ (T) · $834 - 62 = 772$ (O) · $682 - 252 = 430$ (I) · $780 - 334 = 446$ (E) · $323 - 38 = 285$ (Y) · $331 - 95 = 236$ (W) · $738 - 9 = 729$ (R) · $424 - 142 = 282$ (N) · $607 - 229 = 378$ (H) · $565 - 234 = 331$ (L) · $824 - 180 = 644$ (M) · $623 - 346 = 277$ (A) · $754 - 323 = 431$ (F) · $554 - 137 = 417$ (S)

Clue 4 (Rounding): "WE FOUND A BROWN STEM AT THE SCENE"

Round 92 to the nearest ten = 90 (W) · Round 6,343 to the nearest thousand = 6000 (E) · Round 38 to the nearest ten = 40 (B) · Round 27 to the nearest ten = 30 (M) · Round 605 to the nearest hundred = 600 (S) · Round 18 to the nearest ten = 20 (R) · Round 3,969 to the nearest thousand = 4000 (F) · Round 4,812 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (H) · Round 71 to the nearest ten = 70 (N) · Round 7,606 to the nearest thousand = 8000 (U) · Round 3,076 to the nearest thousand = 3000 (A) · Round 8,519 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (O) · Round 59 to the nearest ten = 60 (C) · Round 353 to the nearest hundred = 400 (T) · Round 51 to the nearest ten = 50 (D)

Clue 5 (Missing addends): surviving statement is box 7 → Rusty Rake

$8 + \underline{\quad} = 10 = 2$ · $7 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 4$ · $1 + \underline{\quad} = 4 = 3$ · $5 + \underline{\quad} = 17 = 12$ · $7 + \underline{\quad} = 12 = 5$ · $9 + \underline{\quad} = 18 = 9$ · $5 + \underline{\quad} = 6 = 1$ · $6 + \underline{\quad} = 12 = 6$ · $4 + \underline{\quad} = 15 = 11$ · $3 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 8$ · $4 + \underline{\quad} = 14 = 10$