The Great Pumpkin Patch Mystery

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

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

Someone snuck into the Hollow Hill Pumpkin Patch on Halloween Eve and snatched the Golden Pumpkin award. Solve the clues to reveal the culprit before the festival starts.

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 Bandit is _____

Possible suspects

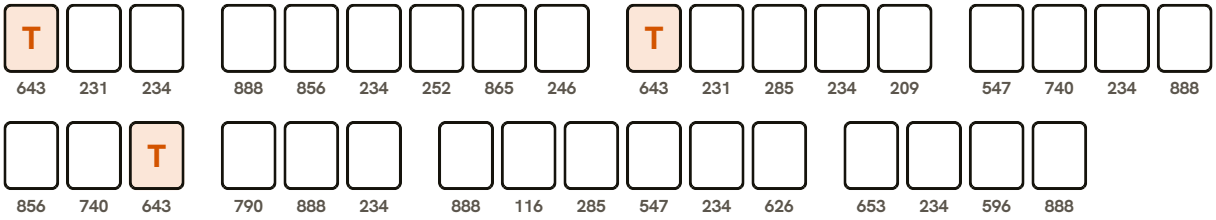
Cross off a row as each clue rules it out. The one left at the end is the culprit.

NAME	MAIN TRICK	SPECIAL GEAR	GLOVE STATUS	COSTUME ITEM	WEAKNESS ITEM
Haunting Hannah	Bat Swarm	Jack O Beam	WEARING GLOVES	SKELETON MASK	GLOW STICK
Raven Poe	Bat Swarm	Jack O Beam	WEARING GLOVES	WITCH HAT	GLOW STICK
Penny Pumpkin	Ghost Lantern	Glow Powder	WEARING GLOVES	VAMPIRE CAPE	GLOW STICK
Frank N Stein	Broomstick Dash	Jack O Beam	BARE HANDS	WITCH HAT	SALT POUCH
Casper Cole	Broomstick Dash	Spooky Siren	WEARING GLOVES	WITCH HAT	GLOW STICK
Count Bruno	Ghost Lantern	Glow Powder	BARE HANDS	VAMPIRE CAPE	GLOW STICK
Creepy Chloe	Bat Swarm	Spider Web Gun	BARE HANDS	SKELETON MASK	SALT POUCH
Goblin Greg	Broomstick Dash	Glow Powder	BARE HANDS	SKELETON MASK	GLOW STICK
Bony Benny	Fog Blast	Glow Powder	WEARING GLOVES	VAMPIRE CAPE	GLOW STICK
Cobweb Clyde	Fog Blast	Jack O Beam	BARE HANDS	VAMPIRE CAPE	SALT POUCH
Bela Lugosi	Shadow Cloak	Jack O Beam	BARE HANDS	SKELETON MASK	SALT POUCH
Bram Stoker	Fog Blast	Spider Web Gun	BARE HANDS	SKELETON MASK	GLOW STICK
Autumn Reed	Fog Blast	Candy Magnet	BARE HANDS	WITCH HAT	GLOW STICK
Shadow Sam	Fog Blast	Spider Web Gun	BARE HANDS	VAMPIRE CAPE	GLOW STICK
Salem Black	Fog Blast	Glow Powder	BARE HANDS	SKELETON MASK	SALT POUCH
Mummy Max	Ghost Lantern	Glow Powder	WEARING GLOVES	SKELETON MASK	SALT POUCH
Witchy Wanda	Fog Blast	Spooky Siren	BARE HANDS	SKELETON MASK	SALT POUCH
Boris Karloff	Fog Blast	Spooky Siren	WEARING GLOVES	VAMPIRE CAPE	GARLIC SPRAY
Monster Mike	Shadow Cloak	Jack O Beam	BARE HANDS	VAMPIRE CAPE	GLOW STICK
Zombie Zora	Bat Swarm	Candy Magnet	BARE HANDS	SKELETON MASK	GLOW STICK
Spooky Sally	Bat Swarm	Jack O Beam	BARE HANDS	SKELETON MASK	SALT POUCH

CLUE 1 Subtraction

The festival had a batch of giant pumpkins but some were stolen overnight. Subtract to find how many remain.

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



698 - 55 = ☐ → T

1092 - 352 = ☐ → O

393 - 184 = ☐ → F

360 - 129 = ☐ → H

1005 - 379 = ☐ → R

838 - 291 = ☐ → D

1159 - 294 = ☐ → K

671 - 75 = ☐ → B

334 - 100 = ☐ → E

479 - 227 = ☐ → A

883 - 27 = ☐ → N

799 - 146 = ☐ → W

640 - 355 = ☐ → I

798 - 8 = ☐ → U

1142 - 254 = ☐ → S

511 - 265 = ☐ → Y

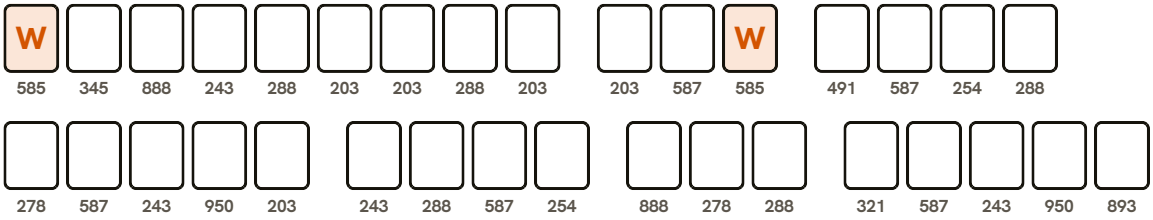
507 - 391 = ☐ → P

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Addition

The festival workers tallied the treat bags collected at two booths. Add them up to get the total.

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



302 + 283 = ☐ → W

321 + 629 = ☐ → D

103 + 175 = ☐ → H

139 + 104 = ☐ → N

164 + 181 = ☐ → I

87 + 167 = ☐ → R

98 + 105 = ☐ → S

297 + 591 = ☐ → T

404 + 183 = ☐ → A

117 + 204 = ☐ → C

225 + 266 = ☐ → B

118 + 170 = ☐ → E

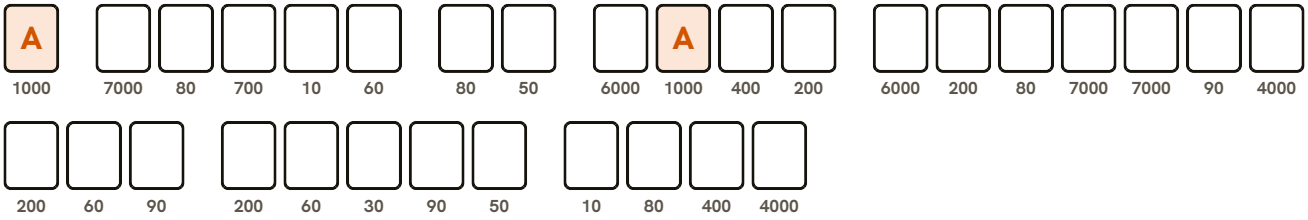
521 + 372 = ☐ → Y

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Place value

An eerie digital lock box shows a code based on the hundreds digit of the candy count.

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



What is the value of the 1 in 1,004? ☐ → **A**

What is the value of the 4 in 94,982? ☐ → **D**

What is the value of the 2 in 266? ☐ → **T**

What is the value of the 4 in 457? ☐ → **L**

What is the value of the 5 in 751? ☐ → **F**

What is the value of the 1 in 5,517? ☐ → **C**

What is the value of the 9 in 2,595? ☐ → **E**

What is the value of the 7 in 7,158? ☐ → **P**

What is the value of the 7 in 744? ☐ → **U**

What is the value of the 3 in 636? ☐ → **I**

What is the value of the 8 in 985? ☐ → **O**

What is the value of the 6 in 6,184? ☐ → **S**

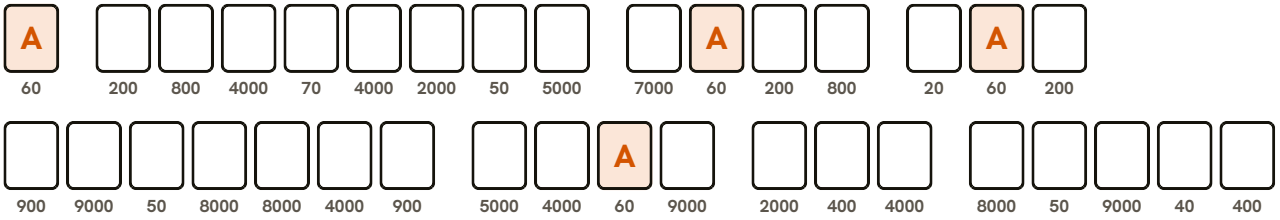
What is the value of the 6 in 962? ☐ → **H**

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Rounding

The spookometer radar screen only shows pumpkin weights rounded to the nearest ten.

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



Round 64 to the nearest ten ☐ → A

Round 844 to the nearest hundred ☐ → K

Round 401 to the nearest hundred ☐ → H

Round 941 to the nearest hundred ☐ → D

Round 52 to the nearest ten ☐ → O

Round 36 to the nearest ten ☐ → C

Round 202 to the nearest hundred ☐ → S

Round 7,990 to the nearest thousand ☐ → P

Round 19 to the nearest ten ☐ → W

Round 3,580 to the nearest thousand ☐ → E

Round 5,162 to the nearest thousand ☐ → N

Round 7,124 to the nearest thousand ☐ → M

Round 9,195 to the nearest thousand ☐ → R

Round 1,609 to the nearest thousand ☐ → T

Round 67 to the nearest ten ☐ → L

Scratch space:

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

> The mayor wants to split the leftover prize ribbons equally among the festival booths.

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:

16 ÷ 4 = ☐	49 ÷ 7 = ☐	10 ÷ 10 = ☐	12 ÷ 1 = ☐	44 ÷ 4 = ☐
18 ÷ 2 = ☐	27 ÷ 9 = ☐	48 ÷ 6 = ☐	60 ÷ 10 = ☐	45 ÷ 9 = ☐
6 ÷ 3 = ☐				

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain vanished in a shadow cloak, then flashed a bright jack o beam.
2. The villain blasted thick fog, then shot a sticky spider web.
3. The villain blasted thick fog, then flashed a bright jack o beam.
4. The villain blasted thick fog, then blared a spooky siren.
5. The villain summoned a bat swarm, then turned on a candy magnet.
6. The villain vanished in a shadow cloak, then dusted the porch with glow powder.
7. The villain summoned a bat swarm, then flashed a bright jack o beam.
8. The villain summoned a bat swarm, then dusted the porch with glow powder.
9. The villain summoned a bat swarm, then blared a spooky siren.
10. The villain blasted thick fog, then dusted the porch with glow powder.
11. The villain zoomed on a broomstick dash, then flashed a bright jack o beam.
12. The villain zoomed on a broomstick dash, then shot a sticky spider web.

TEACHER / PARENT

Answer Key

The Great Pumpkin Patch Mystery

Culprit: Salem Black

Fog Blast · Glow Powder · BARE HANDS · SKELETON MASK · SALT POUCH

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

Clue 1 (Subtraction): "THE SNEAKY THIEF DOES NOT USE SPIDER WEBS"

698 - 55 = 643 (T) · 1092 - 352 = 740 (O) · 393 - 184 = 209 (F) · 360 - 129 = 231 (H) · 1005 - 379 = 626 (R) · 838 - 291 = 547 (D) · 1159 - 294 = 865 (K) · 671 - 75 = 596 (B) · 334 - 100 = 234 (E) · 479 - 227 = 252 (A) · 883 - 27 = 856 (N) · 799 - 146 = 653 (W) · 640 - 355 = 285 (I) · 798 - 8 = 790 (U) · 1142 - 254 = 888 (S) · 511 - 265 = 246 (Y) · 507 - 391 = 116 (P)

Clue 2 (Addition): "WITNESSES SAW BARE HANDS NEAR THE CANDY"

302 + 283 = 585 (W) · 321 + 629 = 950 (D) · 103 + 175 = 278 (H) · 139 + 104 = 243 (N) · 164 + 181 = 345 (I) · 87 + 167 = 254 (R) · 98 + 105 = 203 (S) · 297 + 591 = 888 (T) · 404 + 183 = 587 (A) · 117 + 204 = 321 (C) · 225 + 266 = 491 (B) · 118 + 170 = 288 (E) · 521 + 372 = 893 (Y)

Clue 3 (Place value): "A POUCH OF SALT STOPPED THE THIEF COLD"

What is the value of the 1 in 1,004? = 1000 (A) · What is the value of the 4 in 94,982? = 4000 (D) · What is the value of the 2 in 266? = 200 (T) · What is the value of the 4 in 457? = 400 (L) · What is the value of the 5 in 751? = 50 (F) · What is the value of the 1 in 5,517? = 10 (C) · What is the value of the 9 in 2,595? = 90 (E) · What is the value of the 7 in 7,158? = 7000 (P) · What is the value of the 7 in 744? = 700 (U) · What is the value of the 3 in 636? = 30 (I) · What is the value of the 8 in 985? = 80 (O) · What is the value of the 6 in 6,184? = 6000 (S) · What is the value of the 6 in 962? = 60 (H)

Clue 4 (Rounding): "A SKELETON MASK WAS DROPPED NEAR THE PORCH"

Round 64 to the nearest ten = 60 (A) · Round 844 to the nearest hundred = 800 (K) · Round 401 to the nearest hundred = 400 (H) · Round 941 to the nearest hundred = 900 (D) · Round 52 to the nearest ten = 50 (O) · Round 36 to the nearest ten = 40 (C) · Round 202 to the nearest hundred = 200 (S) · Round 7,990 to the nearest thousand = 8000 (P) · Round 19 to the nearest ten = 20 (W) · Round 3,580 to the nearest thousand = 4000 (E) · Round 5,162 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (N) · Round 7,124 to the nearest thousand = 7000 (M) · Round 9,195 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (R) · Round 1,609 to the nearest thousand = 2000 (T) · Round 67 to the nearest ten = 70 (L)

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

16 ÷ 4 = 4 · 49 ÷ 7 = 7 · 10 ÷ 10 = 1 · 12 ÷ 1 = 12 · 44 ÷ 4 = 11 · 18 ÷ 2 = 9 · 27 ÷ 9 = 3 · 48 ÷ 6 = 8 · 60 ÷ 10 = 6 · 45 ÷ 9 = 5 · 6 ÷ 3 = 2