# The Great Softball Swindle

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

**Detective:** _____ **Date:** _____

Someone snuck into the equipment shed before the big championship game and stole the Golden Pitching Trophy! The detective team must track down the culprit before first pitch.

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 Championship Snatcher is** _____

## Possible suspects

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

| NAME | SIGNATURE PITCH | FAVORITE GEAR | GLOVE HAND | CAP COLOR | DISTRACTION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sis Bates** | Changeup | Visor | Left Handed | Blue Cap | Bubble Gum |
| **Kinzie Hansen** | Changeup | Catchers Mask | Right Handed | Blue Cap | Loud Cheering |
| **Jayda Coleman** | Screwball | Batting Glove | Left Handed | Gold Cap | Squeaky Shoes |
| **Ali Aguilar** | Fastball | Visor | Right Handed | Red Cap | Squeaky Shoes |
| **Valerie Cagle** | Fastball | Catchers Mask | Left Handed | Gold Cap | Loud Cheering |
| **Amanda Chidester** | Changeup | Batting Glove | Left Handed | Gold Cap | Bubble Gum |
| **Monica Abbott** | Riseball | Ankle Guard | Left Handed | Blue Cap | Loud Cheering |
| **Haylie McCleney** | Dropcurve | Shiny Bat | Left Handed | Gold Cap | Loud Cheering |
| **Jocelyn Alo** | Riseball | Shiny Bat | Right Handed | Blue Cap | Bubble Gum |
| **Jennie Finch** | Dropcurve | Catchers Mask | Right Handed | Blue Cap | Bubble Gum |
| **Megan Faraimo** | Changeup | Visor | Right Handed | Gold Cap | Loud Cheering |
| **Tiare Jennings** | Fastball | Visor | Left Handed | Gold Cap | Squeaky Shoes |
| **Kiki Milloy** | Fastball | Catchers Mask | Right Handed | Gold Cap | Squeaky Shoes |
| **Cat Osterman** | Fastball | Shiny Bat | Right Handed | Blue Cap | Bubble Gum |
| **Rachel Garcia** | Screwball | Batting Glove | Right Handed | Red Cap | Bubble Gum |
| **Skylar Wallace** | Dropcurve | Ankle Guard | Right Handed | Blue Cap | Bubble Gum |
| **Alana Vawter** | Changeup | Catchers Mask | Right Handed | Gold Cap | Squeaky Shoes |
| **Sierra Romero** | Riseball | Visor | Right Handed | Blue Cap | Bubble Gum |
| **Lauren Chamberlain** | Fastball | Catchers Mask | Right Handed | Blue Cap | Loud Cheering |
| **NiJaree Canady** | Changeup | Catchers Mask | Left Handed | Blue Cap | Bubble Gum |
| **Odicci Alexander** | Screwball | Catchers Mask | Left Handed | Gold Cap | Bubble Gum |

## CLUE 1 Multiplication facts (1-12)

> The detective counts equal rows of softballs stacked in the dugout storage room to unlock the first clue.

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | | | T | | | | | | | | | | | T | | | | | |
| 96 | 1 | 81 | 96 | 1 | 28 | 81 | 72 | 16 | 48 | 81 | 14 | 18 | 48 | 96 | 15 | 81 | 64 | 5 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 64 | 18 | 64 | 18 | 108 | 80 | 81 | 84 | 20 | 64 | 5 | 16 | | | | | | | | |

8 × 12 = ☐ → T

12 × 6 = ☐ → F

4 × 4 = ☐ → D

9 × 12 = ☐ → K

5 × 1 = ☐ → R

8 × 8 = ☐ → A

9 × 9 = ☐ → E

10 × 8 = ☐ → L

2 × 10 = ☐ → U

12 × 7 = ☐ → G

4 × 12 = ☐ → O

1 × 1 = ☐ → H

5 × 3 = ☐ → W

7 × 4 = ☐ → I

2 × 7 = ☐ → S

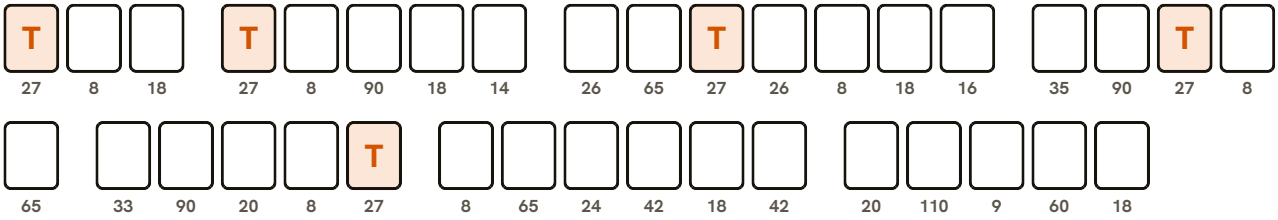
9 × 2 = ☐ → N

Scratch space:

## CLUE 2 Skip counting

The detective skip counts the light beam flashes along the outfield fence line to decipher the second clue.

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




Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, ___, 30, 33 ☐ → T

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, ___, 10, 12 ☐ → H

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, ___, 21, 24 ☐ → E

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, ___, 100, 110 ☐ → I

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, ___, 45, 48 ☐ → D

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, ___, 18, 20 ☐ → S

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, ___, 120, 130 ☐ → L

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, ___, 16, 18 ☐ → F

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, ___, 25, 30 ☐ → G

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, ___, 28, 30 ☐ → C

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

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, ___, 40, 45 ☐ → W

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, ___, 26, 28 ☐ → N

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, ___, 65, 70 ☐ → **V**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, ___, 36, 39 ☐ → **R**

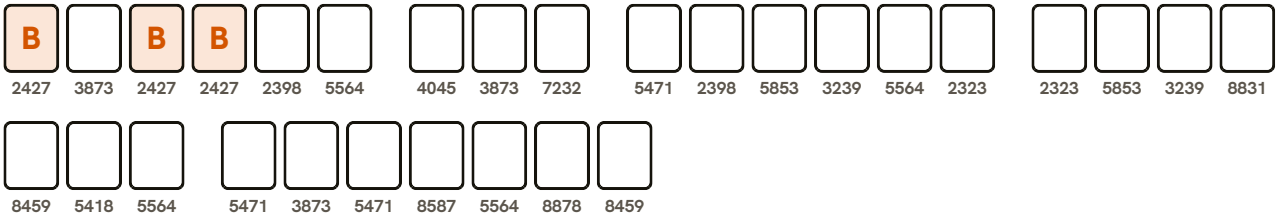
Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, ___, 12, 15 ☐ → **O**

Scratch space:

## CLUE 3 Addition

The detective adds up all the safety helmets left in the equipment bins to reveal the third clue.

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



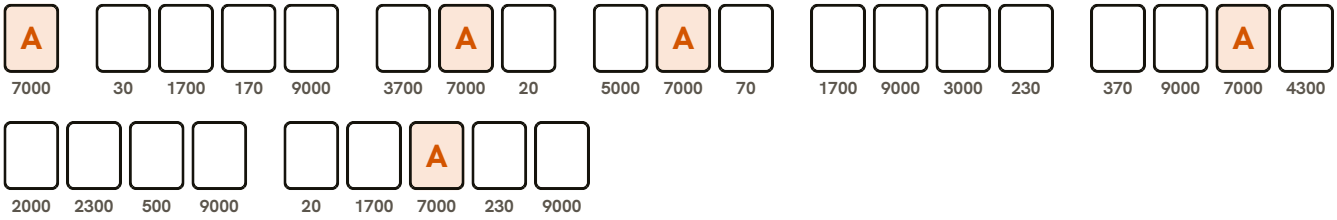

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1387 + 1040 = ☐ → B | 2621 + 5966 = ☐ → P | 3666 + 5212 = ☐ → C |
| 5183 + 3648 = ☐ → N | 1177 + 1221 = ☐ → L | 1361 + 962 = ☐ → D |
| 3450 + 2021 = ☐ → S | 4539 + 2693 = ☐ → M | 3336 + 2228 = ☐ → E |
| 2643 + 2775 = ☐ → H | 1189 + 2684 = ☐ → U | 1309 + 2736 = ☐ → G |
| 1845 + 1394 = ☐ → W | 2409 + 3444 = ☐ → O | 5185 + 3274 = ☐ → T |

Scratch space:

## CLUE 4 Rounding

The radar gun on the field rounds pitch speeds to the nearest ten to generate the fourth clue.

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




Round 7,326 to the nearest thousand ☐ → A

Round 5,098 to the nearest thousand ☐ → W

Round 234 to the nearest ten ☐ → T

Round 1,673 to the nearest hundred ☐ → L

Round 3,736 to the nearest hundred ☐ → C

Round 171 to the nearest ten ☐ → U

Round 30 to the nearest ten ☐ → B

Round 67 to the nearest ten ☐ → S

Round 4,307 to the nearest hundred ☐ → R

Round 2,260 to the nearest hundred ☐ → O

Round 492 to the nearest hundred ☐ → M

Round 3,408 to the nearest thousand ☐ → F

Round 9,346 to the nearest thousand ☐ → E

Round 372 to the nearest ten ☐ → N

Round 16 to the nearest ten ☐ → P

Round 1,785 to the nearest thousand ☐ → H

Scratch space:

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

> The detective divides the extra practice balls equally into buckets across teams to find 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:**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 ÷ 10 = ☐ | 9 ÷ 3 = ☐ | 56 ÷ 8 = ☐ | 7 ÷ 7 = ☐ | 54 ÷ 6 = ☐ |
| 110 ÷ 10 = ☐ | 18 ÷ 3 = ☐ | 20 ÷ 2 = ☐ | 36 ÷ 9 = ☐ | 16 ÷ 2 = ☐ |
| 84 ÷ 7 = ☐ | | | | |

**Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:**

1. The villain threw a fast riseball, then tightened a batting glove.
2. The villain threw a blazing fastball, then grabbed the shiny bat.
3. The villain threw a fast riseball, then adjusted a visor.
4. The villain threw a sneaky changeup, then fixed a catchers mask.
5. The villain threw a sharp dropcurve, then fixed a catchers mask.
6. The villain threw a trick screwball, then tightened a batting glove.
7. The villain threw a fast riseball, then grabbed the shiny bat.
8. The villain threw a trick screwball, then grabbed the shiny bat.
9. The villain threw a blazing fastball, then strapped on an ankle guard.
10. The villain threw a sneaky changeup, then tightened a batting glove.
11. The villain threw a blazing fastball, then tightened a batting glove.
12. The villain threw a blazing fastball, then fixed a catchers mask.

TEACHER / PARENT

# Answer Key

The Great Softball Swindle

## Culprit: Cat Osterman

Fastball · Shiny Bat · Right Handed · Blue Cap · Bubble Gum

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 19 → Clue 2 11 → Clue 3 5 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

### Clue 1 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "THE THIEF DOES NOT WEAR AN ANKLE GUARD"

8 × 12 = 96 (T) · 12 × 6 = 72 (F) · 4 × 4 = 16 (D) · 9 × 12 = 108 (K) · 5 × 1 = 5 (R) · 8 × 8 = 64 (A) · 9 × 9 = 81 (E) · 10 × 8 = 80 (L) · 2 × 10 = 20 (U) · 12 × 7 = 84 (G) · 4 × 12 = 48 (O) · 1 × 1 = 1 (H) · 5 × 3 = 15 (W) · 7 × 4 = 28 (I) · 2 × 7 = 14 (S) · 9 × 2 = 18 (N)

### Clue 2 (Skip counting): "THE THIEF CATCHES WITH A RIGHT HANDED GLOVE"

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, ___, 30, 33 = 27 (T) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, ___, 10, 12 = 8 (H) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, ___, 21, 24 = 18 (E) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, ___, 100, 110 = 90 (I) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, ___, 45, 48 = 42 (D) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, ___, 18, 20 = 16 (S) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, ___, 120, 130 = 110 (L) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, ___, 16, 18 = 14 (F) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, ___, 25, 30 = 20 (G) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, ___, 28, 30 = 26 (C) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, ___, 70, 75 = 65 (A) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, ___, 40, 45 = 35 (W) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, ___, 26, 28 = 24 (N) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, ___, 65, 70 = 60 (V) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, ___, 36, 39 = 33 (R) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, ___, 12, 15 = 9 (O)

### Clue 3 (Addition): "BUBBLE GUM SLOWED DOWN THE SUSPECT"

1387 + 1040 = 2427 (B) · 2621 + 5966 = 8587 (P) · 3666 + 5212 = 8878 (C) · 5183 + 3648 = 8831 (N) · 1177 + 1221 = 2398 (L) · 1361 + 962 = 2323 (D) · 3450 + 2021 = 5471 (S) · 4539 + 2693 = 7232 (M) · 3336 + 2228 = 5564 (E) · 2643 + 2775 = 5418 (H) · 1189 + 2684 = 3873 (U) · 1309 + 2736 = 4045 (G) · 1845 + 1394 = 3239 (W) · 2409 + 3444 = 5853 (O) · 5185 + 3274 = 8459 (T)

### Clue 4 (Rounding): "A BLUE CAP WAS LEFT NEAR HOME PLATE"

Round 7,326 to the nearest thousand = 7000 (A) · Round 5,098 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (W) · Round 234 to the nearest ten = 230 (T) · Round 1,673 to the nearest hundred = 1700 (L) · Round 3,736 to the nearest hundred = 3700 (C) · Round 171 to the nearest ten = 170 (U) · Round 30 to the nearest ten = 30 (B) · Round 67 to the nearest ten = 70 (S) · Round 4,307 to the nearest hundred = 4300 (R) · Round 2,260 to the nearest hundred = 2300 (O) · Round 492 to the nearest hundred = 500 (M) · Round 3,408 to the nearest thousand = 3000 (F) · Round 9,346 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (E) · Round 372 to the nearest ten = 370 (N) · Round 16 to the nearest ten = 20 (P) · Round 1,785 to the nearest thousand = 2000 (H)

### Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 2 → Cat Osterman

50 ÷ 10 = 5 · 9 ÷ 3 = 3 · 56 ÷ 8 = 7 · 7 ÷ 7 = 1 · 54 ÷ 6 = 9 · 110 ÷ 10 = 11 · 18 ÷ 3 = 6 · 20 ÷ 2 = 10 · 36 ÷ 9 = 4 · 16 ÷ 2 = 8 · 84 ÷ 7 = 12