



The Maldives Cupcake Mystery

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

Oh no! The mega pink mango cupcake has vanished from the beach bakery! The Maldives sand is warm, but our mystery is cold. Can you help find the sneaky thief?

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 Cupcake Thief is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	ISLAND TOOL	SALTY SNACK	HANDEDNESS	SUN HAT	FEARS
Fatima	Swim Flippers	Dried Mango	Right Handed	Red Straw Hat	Afraid of Seagulls
Aishah	Swim Flippers	Dried Mango	Right Handed	Blue Straw Hat	Frightened by Crabs
Hassan	Snorkel Mask	Sweet Papaya	Right Handed	Blue Straw Hat	Afraid of Seagulls
Sandy	Swim Flippers	Sweet Papaya	Right Handed	Yellow Straw Hat	Scared of Waves
Kai	Beach Umbrella	Banana Chips	Right Handed	Red Straw Hat	Afraid of Seagulls
Mariyam	Coconut Launcher	Sweet Papaya	Right Handed	Red Straw Hat	Scared of Waves
Leo	Sandy Shovel	Banana Chips	Right Handed	Red Straw Hat	Afraid of Seagulls
Kaya	Beach Umbrella	Sweet Papaya	Left Handed	Red Straw Hat	Afraid of Seagulls
Coco	Snorkel Mask	Banana Chips	Left Handed	Red Straw Hat	Scared of Waves
Sana	Coconut Launcher	Banana Chips	Left Handed	Yellow Straw Hat	Frightened by Crabs
Zayan	Swim Flippers	Banana Chips	Left Handed	Red Straw Hat	Afraid of Seagulls
Toby	Coconut Launcher	Banana Chips	Right Handed	Red Straw Hat	Scared of Waves
Coral	Sandy Shovel	Melon Slice	Left Handed	Blue Straw Hat	Frightened by Crabs
Maya	Sandy Shovel	Sweet Papaya	Left Handed	Red Straw Hat	Frightened by Crabs
Wade	Coconut Launcher	Banana Chips	Left Handed	Blue Straw Hat	Frightened by Crabs
Marina	Coconut Launcher	Coconut Water	Right Handed	Red Straw Hat	Afraid of Seagulls
Ali	Coconut Launcher	Melon Slice	Right Handed	Red Straw Hat	Frightened by Crabs
Sunny	Snorkel Mask	Melon Slice	Left Handed	Blue Straw Hat	Scared of Waves
Reef	Snorkel Mask	Melon Slice	Right Handed	Red Straw Hat	Afraid of Seagulls
Ibrahim	Coconut Launcher	Banana Chips	Right Handed	Blue Straw Hat	Afraid of Seagulls
Yusuf	Swim Flippers	Melon Slice	Right Handed	Yellow Straw Hat	Scared of Waves

CLUE 1 Addition

We find footprints on the sandy path. Let us count the extra shells we see and add them up to find the first clue!

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

T			T											T
9	12	10	9	12	16	10	15	20	17	10	14	6	17	9
										T			T	
20	7	16	6	13	5	17	5	17	6	18	9	19	4	9

$4 + 5 = \square \rightarrow$ T	$4 + 8 = \square \rightarrow$ H	$9 + 11 = \square \rightarrow$ D	$1 + 3 = \square \rightarrow$ A
$2 + 5 = \square \rightarrow$ R	$8 + 10 = \square \rightarrow$ U	$11 + 6 = \square \rightarrow$ O	
$4 + 2 = \square \rightarrow$ N	$3 + 7 = \square \rightarrow$ E	$8 + 6 = \square \rightarrow$ S	$4 + 9 = \square \rightarrow$ K
$1 + 4 = \square \rightarrow$ C	$4 + 12 = \square \rightarrow$ I	$4 + 11 = \square \rightarrow$ F	
$10 + 9 = \square \rightarrow$ W			

Scratch space:

CLUE 2
Subtraction

The thief dropped some beach towels. We take away the dirty ones to find our next clue!

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

T 17	19	2	12	4	12	14	2	8	T 17	7	18	1	T 17	2	12	7	1	T 17	19
T 17	19	2	1	18	18	1	13	19	T 17	19	15	10	16						

$19 - 2 =$

→

T

$20 - 1 =$

→

H

$2 - 1 =$

→

I

$14 - 1 =$

→

G

$17 - 9 =$

→

C

$10 - 3 =$

→

W

$15 - 5 =$

→

N

$17 - 3 =$

→

P

$7 - 3 =$

→

U

$18 - 3 =$

→

A

$18 - 2 =$

→

D

$20 - 2 =$

→

R

$4 - 2 =$

→

E

$17 - 5 =$

→

S

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Word problems

A friendly resort parrot squawks a word puzzle to us. Listen closely to solve the mystery!

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

Someone scared the villain off with

A			A						E	A	G	U	L	L	
33	19	35	33	23	14	25	19	31		33					31

Lifeguard found 2 cupcake wrapper yesterday and 31 more today. How many cupcake wrapper in all?

Answer: → **A**

Lifeguard found 8 starfish yesterday and 27 more today. How many starfish in all?

Answer: → **R**

Lifeguard found 16 cupcake wrapper yesterday and 7 more today. How many cupcake wrapper in all?

Answer: → **I**

Lifeguard found 8 seashell yesterday and 23 more today. How many seashell in all?

Answer: → **S**

Lifeguard found 5 coconut yesterday and 14 more today. How many coconut in all?

Answer: → **F**

Lifeguard found 14 starfish yesterday and 11 more today. How many starfish in all?

Answer: → **O**

Lifeguard lined up 7 rows of 2 cupcake wrapper. How many cupcake wrapper in all?

Answer: → **D**

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Skip counting

We see rows of coconuts lined up on the sand. We can skip count by twos to get closer to the thief!

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

W																
25	27	33	55	21	6	130	36	35	10	100	90	39	50	10	27	130
				W												
20	50	10	36	25	39	36	50									

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, __, 30, 35 → **W**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, __, 140, 150 → **D**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, __, 8, 10 → **N**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, __, 40, 45 → **B**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, __, 30, 33 → **E**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, __, 39, 42 → **A**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, __, 110, 120 → **I**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, __, 42, 45 → **H**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, __, 60, 65 → **O**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, __, 12, 14 → **R**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, __, 24, 27 → **U**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, __, 100, 110 → **G**

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

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, __, 25, 30 → **S**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, __, 60, 70 → **T**

Scratch space:

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

We have six beach chairs but we need ten. Find how many are missing to get 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:

$2 + \underline{\quad} = 14$

$2 + \underline{\quad} = 5$

$10 + \underline{\quad} = 19$

$9 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

$1 + \underline{\quad} = 8$

$6 + \underline{\quad} = 14$

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

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

$6 + \underline{\quad} = 7$

$9 + \underline{\quad} = 13$

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

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain blasts a pile of messy sand with a coconut launcher, then sips refreshing sweet coconut water.
2. The villain blocks the hot tropical sun with a beach umbrella, then chews on sticky dried mango pieces.
3. The villain splashes across the resort pool wearing swim flippers, then chews on sticky dried mango pieces.
4. The villain blasts a pile of messy sand with a coconut launcher, then nibbles on a ripe orange sweet papaya.
5. The villain dives deep under the blue lagoon water with a snorkel mask, then sips refreshing sweet coconut water.
6. The villain blocks the hot tropical sun with a beach umbrella, then crunches loudly on some banana chips.
7. The villain blocks the hot tropical sun with a beach umbrella, then nibbles on a ripe orange sweet papaya.
8. The villain blasts a pile of messy sand with a coconut launcher, then crunches loudly on some banana chips.
9. The villain dives deep under the blue lagoon water with a snorkel mask, then munchers on a juicy pink melon slice.
10. The villain splashes across the resort pool wearing swim flippers, then sips refreshing sweet coconut water.
11. The villain blocks the hot tropical sun with a beach umbrella, then sips refreshing sweet coconut water.
12. The villain digs a big hole on the beach with a sandy shovel, then crunches loudly on some banana chips.

Answer Key

The Maldives Cupcake Mystery

Culprit: Kai

Beach Umbrella · Banana Chips · Right Handed · Red Straw Hat · Afraid of Seagulls

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 20 → Clue 2 12 → Clue 3 6 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Addition): "THE THIEF DOES NOT DRINK COCONUT WATER"

$4 + 5 = 9$ (T) · $4 + 8 = 12$ (H) · $9 + 11 = 20$ (D) · $1 + 3 = 4$ (A) · $2 + 5 = 7$ (R) · $8 + 10 = 18$ (U) · $11 + 6 = 17$ (O) · $4 + 2 = 6$ (N) · $3 + 7 = 10$ (E) · $8 + 6 = 14$ (S) · $4 + 9 = 13$ (K) · $1 + 4 = 5$ (C) · $4 + 12 = 16$ (I) · $4 + 11 = 15$ (F) · $10 + 9 = 19$ (W)

Clue 2 (Subtraction): "THE SUSPECT WRITES WITH THEIR RIGHT HAND"

$19 - 2 = 17$ (T) · $20 - 1 = 19$ (H) · $2 - 1 = 1$ (I) · $14 - 1 = 13$ (G) · $17 - 9 = 8$ (C) · $10 - 3 = 7$ (W) · $15 - 5 = 10$ (N) · $17 - 3 = 14$ (P) · $7 - 3 = 4$ (U) · $18 - 3 = 15$ (A) · $18 - 2 = 16$ (D) · $20 - 2 = 18$ (R) · $4 - 2 = 2$ (E) · $17 - 5 = 12$ (S)

Clue 3 (Word problems): "AFRAID OF SEAGULLS"

Lifeguard found 2 cupcake wrapper yesterday and 31 more today. How many cupcake wrapper in all? = 33 (A) · Lifeguard found 8 starfish yesterday and 27 more today. How many starfish in all? = 35 (R) · Lifeguard found 16 cupcake wrapper yesterday and 7 more today. How many cupcake wrapper in all? = 23 (I) · Lifeguard found 8 seashell yesterday and 23 more today. How many seashell in all? = 31 (S) · Lifeguard found 5 coconut yesterday and 14 more today. How many coconut in all? = 19 (F) · Lifeguard found 14 starfish yesterday and 11 more today. How many starfish in all? = 25 (O) · Lifeguard lined up 7 rows of 2 cupcake wrapper. How many cupcake wrapper in all? = 14 (D)

Clue 4 (Skip counting): "WE FOUND A BRIGHT RED STRAW HAT"

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, __, 30, 35 = 25 (W) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, __, 140, 150 = 130 (D) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, __, 8, 10 = 6 (N) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, __, 40, 45 = 35 (B) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, __, 30, 33 = 27 (E) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, __, 39, 42 = 36 (A) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, __, 110, 120 = 100 (I) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, __, 42, 45 = 39 (H) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, __, 60, 65 = 55 (O) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, __, 12, 14 = 10 (R) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, __, 24, 27 = 21 (U) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, __, 100, 110 = 90 (G) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, __, 36, 39 = 33 (F) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, __, 25, 30 = 20 (S) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, __, 60, 70 = 50 (T)

Clue 5 (Missing addends): surviving statement is box 6 → Kai

$2 + \underline{\quad} = 14 = 12$ · $2 + \underline{\quad} = 5 = 3$ · $10 + \underline{\quad} = 19 = 9$ · $9 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 2$ · $1 + \underline{\quad} = 8 = 7$ · $6 + \underline{\quad} = 14 = 8$ · $4 + \underline{\quad} = 15 = 11$ · $7 + \underline{\quad} = 12 = 5$ · $6 + \underline{\quad} = 7 = 1$ · $9 + \underline{\quad} = 13 = 4$ · $4 + \underline{\quad} = 14 = 10$