



The Mystery of the Missing Golden Football

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

Right before the championship kickoff, the Golden Football trophy went missing from the locker room! Solve the math clues to help Coach Miller find the culprit among the stadium suspects.

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 thief is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	PRIMARY GEAR	SPECIAL MOVE	STANCE	HELMET COLOR	FAVORITE SNACK
TJ Watt	Arm Band	Power Drive	Left Handed	Navy Helmet	Protein Bar
Derrick Henry	Arm Band	Hurdle Jump	Right Handed	Silver Helmet	Orange Slice
AJ Brown	Visor Shield	Spin Move	Left Handed	Red Helmet	Sports Drink
CJ Stroud	Padded Gloves	Power Drive	Left Handed	Silver Helmet	Sports Drink
George Kittle	Padded Gloves	Spin Move	Left Handed	Red Helmet	Protein Bar
Tyreek Hill	Hand Warmers	Power Drive	Left Handed	Silver Helmet	Sports Drink
Jalen Hurts	Padded Gloves	Power Drive	Left Handed	Red Helmet	Orange Slice
Micah Parsons	Padded Gloves	Spin Move	Left Handed	Navy Helmet	Protein Bar
Travis Kelce	Arm Band	Hurdle Jump	Left Handed	Navy Helmet	Protein Bar
Lamar Jackson	Hand Warmers	Precision Throw	Left Handed	Silver Helmet	Protein Bar
Davante Adams	Gold Cleats	Spin Move	Right Handed	Red Helmet	Sports Drink
Patrick Mahomes	Hand Warmers	Blitz Sprint	Left Handed	Navy Helmet	Protein Bar
Myles Garrett	Hand Warmers	Hurdle Jump	Left Handed	Navy Helmet	Protein Bar
Justin Jefferson	Arm Band	Precision Throw	Left Handed	Navy Helmet	Sports Drink
JaMarr Chase	Padded Gloves	Power Drive	Left Handed	Red Helmet	Sports Drink
Saquon Barkley	Arm Band	Power Drive	Left Handed	Red Helmet	Sports Drink
Fred Warner	Arm Band	Hurdle Jump	Right Handed	Red Helmet	Protein Bar
Nick Bosa	Visor Shield	Power Drive	Left Handed	Red Helmet	Sports Drink
Christian McCaffrey	Hand Warmers	Spin Move	Right Handed	Navy Helmet	Protein Bar
AmonRa St Brown	Gold Cleats	Hurdle Jump	Right Handed	Silver Helmet	Orange Slice
Aaron Donald	Hand Warmers	Spin Move	Left Handed	Red Helmet	Protein Bar

CLUE 1 Place value

Coach Miller looks at the digital scoreboard numbers to read the encoded locker combination.

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

T			T											T			
3000	70	90	3000	70	500	90	7000	9000	4000	90	800	200	4000	3000	50	800	90

			T							T
700	900	500	3000	60	800	10	300	500	200	3000

What is the value of the 3 in 43,659?

 → **T**

What is the value of the 7 in 17,825?

 → **F**

What is the value of the 8 in 840?

 → **S**

What is the value of the 6 in 5,568?

 → **Z**

What is the value of the 7 in 759?

 → **B**

What is the value of the 7 in 3,279?

 → **H**

What is the value of the 2 in 9,285?

 → **N**

What is the value of the 3 in 5,322?

 → **R**

What is the value of the 9 in 5,496?

 → **E**

What is the value of the 9 in 9,760?

 → **D**

What is the value of the 4 in 4,937?

 → **O**

What is the value of the 1 in 410?

 → **P**

What is the value of the 5 in 153?

 → **U**

What is the value of the 5 in 8,596?

 → **I**

What is the value of the 9 in 7,987?

 → **L**

Scratch space:

CLUE 2

Addition

The equipment manager adds up all the helmets in the equipment room to narrow down the suspect list.

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

T			T											T
213	263	486	213	263	591	486	259	371	749	561	815	486	259	213

263	749	678	250	486	250

$111 + 102 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$190 + 181 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$

$353 + 462 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{L}}$

$254 + 307 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$373 + 376 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$392 + 199 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$350 + 328 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$153 + 110 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$143 + 107 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$160 + 99 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$

$249 + 237 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3
Subtraction

The referee subtracts missing yard markers from the total to reveal another detail.

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

T			T												
261	360	307	261	360	704	307	433	629	864	532	316	316	307	629	448

			T						
316	864	532	261	307	704	705	706	448	864

$652 - 391 = \square \rightarrow \text{**T**}$

$974 - 268 = \square \rightarrow \text{**B**}$

$1096 - 391 = \square \rightarrow \text{**N**}$

$777 - 73 = \square \rightarrow \text{**I**}$

$462 - 14 = \square \rightarrow \text{**A**}$

$754 - 321 = \square \rightarrow \text{**F**}$

$674 - 367 = \square \rightarrow \text{**E**}$

$743 - 211 = \square \rightarrow \text{**O**}$

$851 - 222 = \square \rightarrow \text{**D**}$

$660 - 300 = \square \rightarrow \text{**H**}$

$1213 - 349 = \square \rightarrow \text{**R**}$

$582 - 266 = \square \rightarrow \text{**P**}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Skip counting

The mascot skip counts the rows of stadium bleachers to decode a secret signal.

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

T			T													
14	120	6	14	120	27	6	20	40	18	45	65	65	6	40	80	
50	80	55	130	120	6	36	30	6	14							

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, __, 16, 18 → **T**

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

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, __, 90, 100 → **A**

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

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, __, 55, 60 → **N**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, __, 20, 22 → **R**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, __, 130, 140 → **H**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, __, 50, 55 → **O**

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

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, __, 40, 50 → **M**

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

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

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

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

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

Scratch space:

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

The team captain divides the water bottles into equal groups to unlock 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:

$11 \div 11 = \square$

$63 \div 9 = \square$

$9 \div 3 = \square$

$28 \div 7 = \square$

$81 \div 9 = \square$

$32 \div 4 = \square$

$30 \div 6 = \square$

$36 \div 6 = \square$

$4 \div 2 = \square$

$60 \div 6 = \square$

$66 \div 6 = \square$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain strapped on padded gloves, then executed a spin move.
2. The villain put on gold cleats, then made a blitz sprint.
3. The villain wore an arm band, then used a power drive.
4. The villain strapped on padded gloves, then completed a precision throw.
5. The villain put on gold cleats, then used a power drive.
6. The villain wore an arm band, then made a blitz sprint.
7. The villain wore an arm band, then cleared a hurdle jump.
8. The villain used hand warmers, then used a power drive.
9. The villain wore an arm band, then completed a precision throw.
10. The villain strapped on padded gloves, then cleared a hurdle jump.
11. The villain used hand warmers, then completed a precision throw.
12. The villain used hand warmers, then cleared a hurdle jump.

Answer Key

The Mystery of the Missing Golden Football

Culprit: Myles Garrett

Hand Warmers · Hurdle Jump · Left Handed · Navy Helmet · Protein Bar

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 20 → Clue 2 15 → Clue 3 7 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Place value): "THE THIEF DOES NOT USE BLITZ SPRINT"

What is the value of the 3 in 43,659? = 3000 (T) · What is the value of the 7 in 17,825? = 7000 (F) · What is the value of the 8 in 840? = 800 (S) · What is the value of the 6 in 5,568? = 60 (Z) · What is the value of the 7 in 759? = 700 (B) · What is the value of the 7 in 3,279? = 70 (H) · What is the value of the 2 in 9,285? = 200 (N) · What is the value of the 3 in 5,322? = 300 (R) · What is the value of the 9 in 5,496? = 90 (E) · What is the value of the 9 in 9,760? = 9000 (D) · What is the value of the 4 in 4,937? = 4000 (O) · What is the value of the 1 in 410? = 10 (P) · What is the value of the 5 in 153? = 50 (U) · What is the value of the 5 in 8,596? = 500 (I) · What is the value of the 9 in 7,987? = 900 (L)

Clue 2 (Addition): "THE THIEF WAS LEFT HANDED"

$111 + 102 = 213$ (T) · $190 + 181 = 371$ (W) · $353 + 462 = 815$ (L) · $254 + 307 = 561$ (S) · $373 + 376 = 749$ (A) · $392 + 199 = 591$ (I) · $350 + 328 = 678$ (N) · $153 + 110 = 263$ (H) · $143 + 107 = 250$ (D) · $160 + 99 = 259$ (F) · $249 + 237 = 486$ (E)

Clue 3 (Subtraction): "THE THIEF DROPPED A PROTEIN BAR"

$652 - 391 = 261$ (T) · $974 - 268 = 706$ (B) · $1096 - 391 = 705$ (N) · $777 - 73 = 704$ (I) · $462 - 14 = 448$ (A) · $754 - 321 = 433$ (F) · $674 - 367 = 307$ (E) · $743 - 211 = 532$ (O) · $851 - 222 = 629$ (D) · $660 - 300 = 360$ (H) · $1213 - 349 = 864$ (R) · $582 - 266 = 316$ (P)

Clue 4 (Skip counting): "THE THIEF DROPPED A NAVY HELMET"

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, __, 16, 18 = 14 (T) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, __, 25, 30 = 20 (F) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, __, 90, 100 = 80 (A) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, __, 30, 33 = 27 (I) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, __, 55, 60 = 50 (N) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, __, 20, 22 = 18 (R) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, __, 130, 140 = 120 (H) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, __, 50, 55 = 45 (O) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, __, 8, 10 = 6 (E) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, __, 40, 50 = 30 (M) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, __, 70, 75 = 65 (P) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, __, 140, 150 = 130 (Y) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, __, 60, 65 = 55 (V) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, __, 45, 50 = 40 (D) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, __, 39, 42 = 36 (L)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 12 → Myles Garrett

$11 \div 11 = 1$ · $63 \div 9 = 7$ · $9 \div 3 = 3$ · $28 \div 7 = 4$ · $81 \div 9 = 9$ · $32 \div 4 = 8$ · $30 \div 6 = 5$ · $36 \div 6 = 6$ · $4 \div 2 = 2$ · $60 \div 6 = 10$ · $66 \div 6 = 11$