



The World Cup Cleat Caper

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

The Golden Boot trophy has vanished right from the center circle of the pitch! The championship match is about to start, and the boys and girls star players are waiting. We must solve the clues left behind on the turf to find out who took it!

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 cleat thief is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	SIGNATURE MOVE	LUCKY GEAR	DOMINANT FOOT	FIELD HAIRSTYLE	GAME DISTRACTION
Virgil van Dijk	bicycle kick	neon shin guards	Right-footed kicker	Spiky gelled hair	Squeaky turf
Sam Kerr	power header	golden cleats	Left-footed kicker	Green hair tie	Squeaky turf
Luka Modric	knuckleball freekick	lucky wristband	Left-footed kicker	Spiky gelled hair	Deflated soccer ball
Alex Morgan	knuckleball freekick	neon shin guards	Left-footed kicker	Green hair tie	Very loud stadium horns
Lionel Messi	knuckleball freekick	star goalie gloves	Left-footed kicker	Green hair tie	Deflated soccer ball
Megan Rapinoe	knuckleball freekick	striped socks	Left-footed kicker	Green hair tie	Very loud stadium horns
Trinity Rodman	no look pass	striped socks	Right-footed kicker	Braided headband	Very loud stadium horns
Robert Lewandowski	rainbow flick	striped socks	Left-footed kicker	Spiky gelled hair	Squeaky turf
Alexia Putellas	knuckleball freekick	striped socks	Right-footed kicker	Green hair tie	Squeaky turf
Marta Vieira	bicycle kick	lucky wristband	Right-footed kicker	Green hair tie	Squeaky turf
Mohamed Salah	power header	striped socks	Left-footed kicker	Spiky gelled hair	Deflated soccer ball
Lauren James	knuckleball freekick	lucky wristband	Right-footed kicker	Green hair tie	Squeaky turf
Mary Earps	rainbow flick	lucky wristband	Right-footed kicker	Green hair tie	Squeaky turf
Lucy Bronze	power header	neon shin guards	Right-footed kicker	Green hair tie	Squeaky turf
Neymar Jr	power header	golden cleats	Right-footed kicker	Spiky gelled hair	Squeaky turf
Kevin De Bruyne	no look pass	lucky wristband	Right-footed kicker	Braided headband	Squeaky turf
Harry Kane	bicycle kick	neon shin guards	Left-footed kicker	Spiky gelled hair	Deflated soccer ball
Kylian Mbappe	no look pass	lucky wristband	Right-footed kicker	Green hair tie	Deflated soccer ball
Sophia Smith	power header	lucky wristband	Right-footed kicker	Spiky gelled hair	Squeaky turf
Erling Haaland	rainbow flick	neon shin guards	Right-footed kicker	Spiky gelled hair	Squeaky turf
Chloe Kelly	rainbow flick	lucky wristband	Left-footed kicker	Spiky gelled hair	Squeaky turf

CLUE 1

The ticket scanner at Gate A is broken and only rounds numbers to the nearest ten. The detective rounds the visitor count to spot a mystery clue!

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

T									T							T
60	600	5000	9000	30	9000	90	5000	200	60	80	4000	5000	9000	700	4000	60
					T											
8000	5000	2000	20	9000	60	20	6000	90	5000	80	9000	4000	200	800	9000	

Round 62 to the nearest ten $\rightarrow$ **T**

Round 645 to the nearest hundred $\rightarrow$ **H**

Round 5,023 to the nearest thousand $\rightarrow$ **E**

Round 770 to the nearest hundred $\rightarrow$ **K**

Round 6,435 to the nearest thousand $\rightarrow$

Round 76 to the nearest ten $\rightarrow$ **D**

Round 176 to the nearest hundred $\rightarrow$ **C**

Round 7,754 to the nearest thousand → **W**

Round 3,818 to the nearest thousand →

Round 9,439 to the nearest thousand → **S**

Round 718 to the nearest hundred $\rightarrow$ **N**

Round 1,826 to the nearest thousand → **A**

Round 86 to the nearest ten $\rightarrow$ **P**

Round 29 to the nearest ten →

Round 22 to the nearest ten → **R**

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Addition

The coach counts all the extra water bottles and adds them to the soccer ball tally in the equipment bag to see what was stolen.

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

T																		
445	512	587	840	908	412	397	397	523	412	397	273	848	302	273	587	876	304	833

					T				T
412	908	848	840	512	445	254	408	408	445

$141 + 304 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$181 + 121 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$207 + 205 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$367 + 220 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$109 + 164 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{K}}$

$119 + 278 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$274 + 249 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$

$502 + 346 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$412 + 496 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$

$460 + 373 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{Y}}$

$154 + 100 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$

$142 + 162 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

$258 + 150 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

$368 + 472 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{G}}$

$468 + 408 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$255 + 257 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Subtraction

The referee subtracts the home goals from the total score to find the hidden difference left on the scoreboard.

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

T				T										T		
153	635	586	380	153	338	654	151	151	586	339		803	881	153	635	586

							T			
446	366	871	586	882	487	380	153	871	338	549

$296 - 143 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$500 - 161 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$1167 - 286 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$496 - 345 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{P}}$

$1119 - 248 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{U}}$

$389 - 51 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$

$890 - 8 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$729 - 242 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{K}}$

$888 - 253 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$840 - 394 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$920 - 117 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

$855 - 269 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$880 - 226 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$494 - 114 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{Y}}$

$459 - 93 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{Q}}$

$573 - 24 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 4
Multiplication facts (1-12)

The team captain multiplies the rows of practice cones by the number of cones in each row to map out the footprint trail.

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

A							A								A	
20	60	24	14	14	36	7	20	99	24	121	99	14	81	20	45	
											A					
120	14	100	121	80	36	121	7	14	60	24	20	45	45			

$10 \times 2 = \square \rightarrow$ A	$9 \times 9 = \square \rightarrow$ W	$4 \times 6 = \square \rightarrow$ R
$11 \times 11 = \square \rightarrow$ T	$11 \times 9 = \square \rightarrow$ I	$6 \times 6 = \square \rightarrow$ N
$9 \times 5 = \square \rightarrow$ S	$10 \times 10 = \square \rightarrow$ F	$5 \times 12 = \square \rightarrow$ G
$7 \times 2 = \square \rightarrow$ E	$10 \times 8 = \square \rightarrow$ O	$12 \times 10 = \square \rightarrow$ L
$7 \times 1 = \square \rightarrow$ H		

Scratch space:

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

To solve the final mystery, the assistant referee divides the snack orange slices equally among the junior team members.

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:

$63 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$11 \div 11 = \boxed{}$

$70 \div 7 = \boxed{}$

$132 \div 11 = \boxed{}$

$99 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$24 \div 8 = \boxed{}$

$36 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$72 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$6 \div 1 = \boxed{}$

$20 \div 4 = \boxed{}$

$63 \div 7 = \boxed{}$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain performs a flashy bicycle kick, then taps their lucky wristband.
2. The villain scores with a power header, then adjusts their neon shin guards.
3. The villain tricks the defense with a no look pass, then taps their lucky wristband.
4. The villain performs a flashy bicycle kick, then shines up their golden cleats.
5. The villain pulls off a speedy rainbow flick, then adjusts their neon shin guards.
6. The villain pulls off a speedy rainbow flick, then shines up their golden cleats.
7. The villain pulls off a speedy rainbow flick, then taps their lucky wristband.
8. The villain blasts a knuckleball freekick, then pulls up their striped socks.
9. The villain pulls off a speedy rainbow flick, then pulls up their striped socks.
10. The villain blasts a knuckleball freekick, then taps their lucky wristband.
11. The villain tricks the defense with a no look pass, then shines up their golden cleats.
12. The villain performs a flashy bicycle kick, then pulls up their striped socks.

Answer Key

The World Cup Cleat Caper

Culprit: Lucy Bronze

power header · neon shin guards · Right-footed kicker · Green hair tie · Squeaky turf

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 16 → Clue 2 10 → Clue 3 9 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Rounding): "THE SUSPECT DOES NOT WEAR STRIPED SOCKS"

Round 62 to the nearest ten = 60 (T) · Round 645 to the nearest hundred = 600 (H) · Round 5,023 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (E) · Round 770 to the nearest hundred = 800 (K) · Round 6,435 to the nearest thousand = 6000 (I) · Round 76 to the nearest ten = 80 (D) · Round 176 to the nearest hundred = 200 (C) · Round 7,754 to the nearest thousand = 8000 (W) · Round 3,818 to the nearest thousand = 4000 (O) · Round 9,439 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (S) · Round 718 to the nearest hundred = 700 (N) · Round 1,826 to the nearest thousand = 2000 (A) · Round 86 to the nearest ten = 90 (P) · Round 29 to the nearest ten = 30 (U) · Round 22 to the nearest ten = 20 (R)

Clue 2 (Addition): "THE GRASS WAS KICKED BY A RIGHT FOOT"

141 + 304 = 445 (T) · 181 + 121 = 302 (C) · 207 + 205 = 412 (A) · 367 + 220 = 587 (E) · 109 + 164 = 273 (K) · 119 + 278 = 397 (S) · 274 + 249 = 523 (W) · 502 + 346 = 848 (I) · 412 + 496 = 908 (R) · 460 + 373 = 833 (Y) · 154 + 100 = 254 (F) · 142 + 162 = 304 (B) · 258 + 150 = 408 (O) · 368 + 472 = 840 (G) · 468 + 408 = 876 (D) · 255 + 257 = 512 (H)

Clue 3 (Subtraction): "THEY TRIPPED ON THE SQUEAKY TURF"

296 - 143 = 153 (T) · 500 - 161 = 339 (D) · 1167 - 286 = 881 (N) · 496 - 345 = 151 (P) · 1119 - 248 = 871 (U) · 389 - 51 = 338 (R) · 890 - 8 = 882 (A) · 729 - 242 = 487 (K) · 888 - 253 = 635 (H) · 840 - 394 = 446 (S) · 920 - 117 = 803 (O) · 855 - 269 = 586 (E) · 880 - 226 = 654 (I) · 494 - 114 = 380 (Y) · 459 - 93 = 366 (Q) · 573 - 24 = 549 (F)

Clue 4 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "A GREEN HAIR TIE WAS LEFT ON THE GRASS"

10 × 2 = 20 (A) · 9 × 9 = 81 (W) · 4 × 6 = 24 (R) · 11 × 11 = 121 (T) · 11 × 9 = 99 (I) · 6 × 6 = 36 (N) · 9 × 5 = 45 (S) · 10 × 10 = 100 (F) · 5 × 12 = 60 (G) · 7 × 2 = 14 (E) · 10 × 8 = 80 (O) · 12 × 10 = 120 (L) · 7 × 1 = 7 (H)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 2 → Lucy Bronze

63 ÷ 9 = 7 · 11 ÷ 11 = 1 · 70 ÷ 7 = 10 · 132 ÷ 11 = 12 · 99 ÷ 9 = 11 · 24 ÷ 8 = 3 · 36 ÷ 9 = 4 · 72 ÷ 9 = 8 · 6 ÷ 1 = 6 · 20 ÷ 4 = 5 · 63 ÷ 7 = 9