



The Case of the Golden Cup Mystery

Grade 3 math · Rounding, Word problems, Bar models, Addition, Division · Reading level grades 3-4

Detective: _____ Date: _____

Just hours before the kickoff of the biggest soccer match of the year, someone snuck into the locker room and hid the Golden Championship Cup! The referee coordinator is in a panic. The grand stadium is packed with fans, and we need your detective skills to find the sneaky soccer star who took the trophy before the whistle blows!

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 stadium sneaker is _____

Possible suspects

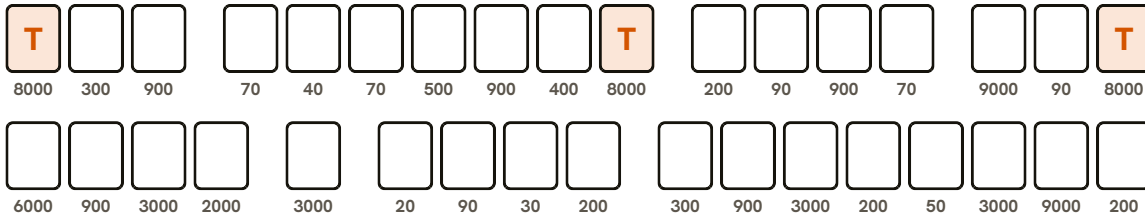
Cross off a row as each clue rules it out. The one left at the end is the culprit.

NAME	SIGNATURE MOVE	LUCKY GEAR	KICKING FOOT	HAIR DYE COLOR	GAME DISTRACTION
Virgil van Dijk	header blast	wrist tape	left footed	pink hair	muddy pitch
Lucy Bronze	rainbow flick	neon cleats	right footed	pink hair	muddy pitch
Mohamed Salah	nutmeg pass	shiny shin guards	left footed	pink hair	squeaky ball
Erling Haaland	rainbow flick	wrist tape	left footed	pink hair	muddy pitch
Neymar Junior	header blast	shiny shin guards	left footed	pink hair	muddy pitch
Kylian Mbappe	rainbow flick	neon cleats	right footed	green hair	squeaky ball
Rose Lavelle	bicycle kick	striped socks	right footed	green hair	muddy pitch
Sam Kerr	rainbow flick	gold headband	left footed	green hair	muddy pitch
Luka Modric	header blast	wrist tape	left footed	pink hair	loud whistle
Guillermo Ochoa	header blast	neon cleats	left footed	pink hair	muddy pitch
Lionel Messi	header blast	striped socks	left footed	blue hair	muddy pitch
Alisson Becker	power volley	shiny shin guards	right footed	blue hair	squeaky ball
Marcus Rashford	nutmeg pass	gold headband	left footed	pink hair	muddy pitch
Alex Morgan	rainbow flick	striped socks	right footed	blue hair	loud whistle
Harry Kane	rainbow flick	wrist tape	left footed	blue hair	muddy pitch
Beth Mead	rainbow flick	gold headband	right footed	green hair	squeaky ball
Manuel Neuer	bicycle kick	gold headband	right footed	pink hair	loud whistle
Kevin De Bruyne	header blast	shiny shin guards	left footed	pink hair	squeaky ball
Aitana Putellas	nutmeg pass	striped socks	right footed	blue hair	loud whistle
Bukayo Saka	header blast	neon cleats	left footed	pink hair	loud whistle
Son Heungmin	rainbow flick	shiny shin guards	left footed	green hair	loud whistle

CLUE 1 Rounding

To start the search, we found a broken locker shelf. Our team drew a bar model comparing the missing gear bags to the total shelves. The solved bar model gives us our first clue!

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



Round 8,436 to the nearest thousand → **T**

Round 40 to the nearest ten → **U**

Round 53 to the nearest ten → **B**

Round 31 to the nearest ten → **L**

Round 440 to the nearest hundred → **C**

Round 292 to the nearest hundred → **H**

Round 471 to the nearest hundred → **P**

Round 890 to the nearest hundred → **E**

Round 203 to the nearest hundred → **D**

Round 5,669 to the nearest thousand → **W**

Round 2,183 to the nearest thousand → **R**

Round 2,793 to the nearest thousand → **A**

Round 67 to the nearest ten → **S**

Round 87 to the nearest ten → **O**

Round 8,614 to the nearest thousand → **N**

Round 23 to the nearest ten → **G**

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Word problems

Next, the stadium guard tells us a word problem about how many soccer balls were kicked over the north fence during practice. Solving his word problem reveals a big secret.

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

A witness saw the villain was .
65 39 50 34 50 70 70 34 39 58

A detective found 6 clues on Monday and 59 more on Tuesday. How many clues in all? →

There are 5 boxes with 10 clues in each box. How many clues in all? →

A detective found 33 clues on Monday and 6 more on Tuesday. How many clues in all? →

There were 82 tickets. 24 were used. How many are left? →

There were 73 tickets. 39 were used. How many are left? →

There are 7 boxes with 10 clues in each box. How many clues in all? →

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Addition

Down by the corner flag, we found a pile of dropped practice cones. Adding all the red cones and blue cones together gives us a magic sum that points to a new clue.

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

W																	
482	477	296	365	281	826	774	834	439	826	955	595	830	439	953			
332	903	439	834	834	439	826	371	779	344	278	459	595	477	371	365	830	903

$152 + 330 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{W}$

$618 + 335 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$

$86 + 195 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{U}$

$344 + 611 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{K}$

$196 + 263 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$

$274 + 321 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{H}$

$387 + 387 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{D}$

$259 + 520 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{S}$

$108 + 188 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$

$172 + 305 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$

$98 + 180 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{Y}$

$238 + 201 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{I}$

$226 + 106 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$

$560 + 270 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{A}$

$191 + 174 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{O}$

$341 + 493 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{P}$

$349 + 477 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$

$217 + 127 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$

$205 + 166 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{G}$

$272 + 631 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{L}$

Scratch space:

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

Finally, the team coach is sharing orange slices equally among the junior players. Dividing the slices evenly into equal groups gives us the final clue we need.

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:

$12 \div 4 = \square$

$77 \div 7 = \square$

$55 \div 11 = \square$

$48 \div 12 = \square$

$48 \div 4 = \square$

$8 \div 1 = \square$

$20 \div 2 = \square$

$8 \div 8 = \square$

$6 \div 3 = \square$

$36 \div 4 = \square$

$56 \div 8 = \square$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain scores a header blast, then pulls up striped socks.
2. The villain pulls off a rainbow flick, then laces up neon cleats.
3. The villain pulls off a rainbow flick, then wraps white wrist tape.
4. The villain performs a bicycle kick, then laces up neon cleats.
5. The villain scores a header blast, then wraps white wrist tape.
6. The villain scores a header blast, then laces up neon cleats.
7. The villain pulls off a rainbow flick, then adjusts a gold headband.
8. The villain fires a power volley, then pulls up striped socks.
9. The villain completes a nutmeg pass, then wraps white wrist tape.
10. The villain pulls off a rainbow flick, then snaps on shiny shin guards.
11. The villain scores a header blast, then snaps on shiny shin guards.
12. The villain completes a nutmeg pass, then laces up neon cleats.

Answer Key

The Case of the Golden Cup Mystery

Culprit: Guillermo Ochoa

header blast · neon cleats · left footed · pink hair · muddy pitch

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 17 → Clue 2 11 → Clue 3 6 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Rounding): "THE SUSPECT DOES NOT WEAR A GOLD HEADBAND"

Round 8,436 to the nearest thousand = 8000 (T) · Round 40 to the nearest ten = 40 (U) · Round 53 to the nearest ten = 50 (B) · Round 31 to the nearest ten = 30 (L) · Round 440 to the nearest hundred = 400 (C) · Round 292 to the nearest hundred = 300 (H) · Round 471 to the nearest hundred = 500 (P) · Round 890 to the nearest hundred = 900 (E) · Round 203 to the nearest hundred = 200 (D) · Round 5,669 to the nearest thousand = 6000 (W) · Round 2,183 to the nearest thousand = 2000 (R) · Round 2,793 to the nearest thousand = 3000 (A) · Round 67 to the nearest ten = 70 (S) · Round 87 to the nearest ten = 90 (O) · Round 8,614 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (N) · Round 23 to the nearest ten = 20 (G)

Clue 2 (Word problems): "LEFT FOOTED"

A detective found 6 clues on Monday and 59 more on Tuesday. How many clues in all? = 65 (L) · There are 5 boxes with 10 clues in each box. How many clues in all? = 50 (F) · A detective found 33 clues on Monday and 6 more on Tuesday. How many clues in all? = 39 (E) · There were 82 tickets. 24 were used. How many are left? = 58 (D) · There were 73 tickets. 39 were used. How many are left? = 34 (T) · There are 7 boxes with 10 clues in each box. How many clues in all? = 70 (O)

Clue 3 (Bar models): "MUDDY PITCH"

One part is 1 and the other part is 6. What is the whole? = 7 (M) · The whole is 37. One part is 17. What is the other part? = 20 (I) · The whole is 27. One part is 5. What is the other part? = 22 (D) · The whole is 30. One part is 7. What is the other part? = 23 (Y) · One bar shows 36 and the other shows 20. How much longer is the first bar? = 16 (U) · The whole is 8. One part is 4. What is the other part? = 4 (T) · One bar shows 39 and the other shows 12. How much longer is the first bar? = 27 (P)

Clue 4 (Addition): "WE FOUND PINK HAIR CLIPPINGS BY THE GOAL"

$152 + 330 = 482$ (W) · $618 + 335 = 953$ (R) · $86 + 195 = 281$ (U) · $344 + 611 = 955$ (K) · $196 + 263 = 459$ (T) · $274 + 321 = 595$ (H) · $387 + 387 = 774$ (D) · $259 + 520 = 779$ (S) · $108 + 188 = 296$ (F) · $172 + 305 = 477$ (E) · $98 + 180 = 278$ (Y) · $238 + 201 = 439$ (I) · $226 + 106 = 332$ (C) · $560 + 270 = 830$ (A) · $191 + 174 = 365$ (O) · $341 + 493 = 834$ (P) · $349 + 477 = 826$ (N) · $217 + 127 = 344$ (B) · $205 + 166 = 371$ (G) · $272 + 631 = 903$ (L)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 6 → Guillermo Ochoa

$12 \div 4 = 3$ · $77 \div 7 = 11$ · $55 \div 11 = 5$ · $48 \div 12 = 4$ · $48 \div 4 = 12$ · $8 \div 1 = 8$ · $20 \div 2 = 10$ · $8 \div 8 = 1$ · $6 \div 3 = 2$ · $36 \div 4 = 9$ · $56 \div 8 = 7$