The Case of the Missing Meteorite

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

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

The museum's prized dinosaur meteorite, the Star Stone, has vanished! A sneaky dino-napper is to blame. Can you crack the case before the sun rises?

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 dino-napper is _____

Possible suspects

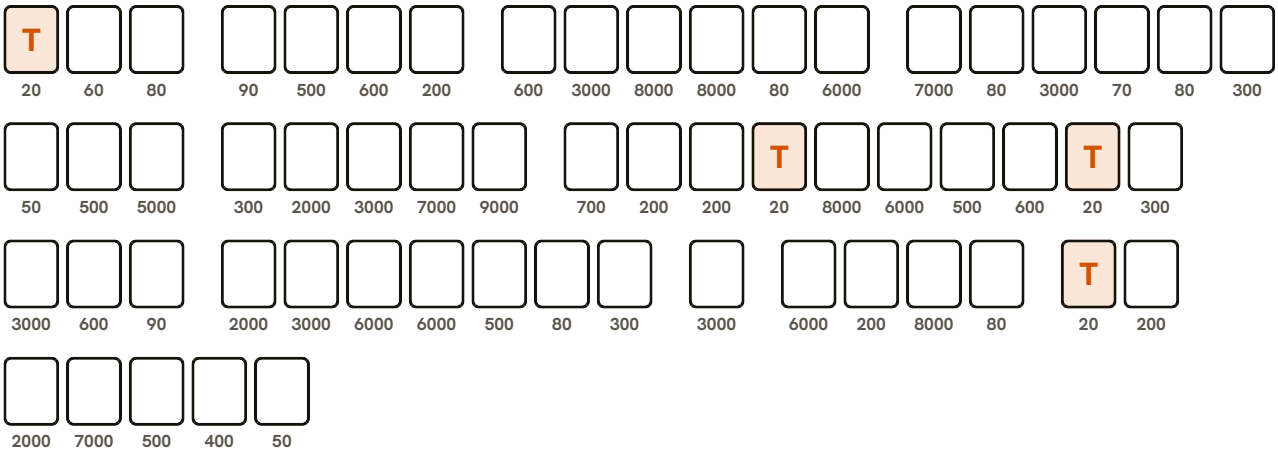
Cross off a row as each clue rules it out. The one left at the end is the culprit.

NAME	DINO ROAR	SPECIAL GEAR	FOSSIL FOOTPRINT	SCALE COLOR	SHINY OBJECT
Professor Maiasaura	Thunderous Roar	Dino Tracker	Right Footprint	Emerald Scales	Sticky Traps
Professor Corythosaurus	Melody Roar	Grappling Hook	Left Footprint	Ruby Scales	Loud Noises
Professor Allosaurus	Gale Force Roar	Climbing Claws	Left Footprint	Ruby Scales	Loud Noises
Dr. Velociraptor	Sonic Screech	Stealth Suit	Right Footprint	Ruby Scales	Sparkly Things
Dr. Iguanodon	Thunderous Roar	Climbing Claws	Left Footprint	Sapphire Scales	Sparkly Things
Professor Ankylosaurus	Thunderous Roar	Dino Tracker	Right Footprint	Sapphire Scales	Loud Noises
Professor Gallimimus	Melody Roar	Stealth Suit	Left Footprint	Sapphire Scales	Sticky Traps
Professor Ornithomimus	Thunderous Roar	Climbing Claws	Right Footprint	Sapphire Scales	Sticky Traps
Dr. Carnotaurus	Earthquake Stomp	Climbing Claws	Right Footprint	Sapphire Scales	Sticky Traps
Dr. Dimorphodon	Sonic Screech	Net Launcher	Right Footprint	Ruby Scales	Loud Noises
Professor Parasaurolophus	Melody Roar	Stealth Suit	Left Footprint	Emerald Scales	Sticky Traps
Dr. Euoplocephalus	Earthquake Stomp	Grappling Hook	Right Footprint	Ruby Scales	Loud Noises
Dr. Compsognathus	Earthquake Stomp	Climbing Claws	Left Footprint	Sapphire Scales	Sticky Traps
Professor Spinosaurus	Sonic Screech	Grappling Hook	Right Footprint	Ruby Scales	Loud Noises
Dr. Stego	Gale Force Roar	Dino Tracker	Right Footprint	Emerald Scales	Sticky Traps
Dr. Hadrosaurus	Gale Force Roar	Grappling Hook	Right Footprint	Ruby Scales	Loud Noises
Professor Pachycephalosaurus	Thunderous Roar	Climbing Claws	Right Footprint	Ruby Scales	Sparkly Things
Dr. Rex	Earthquake Stomp	Net Launcher	Right Footprint	Sapphire Scales	Loud Noises
Dr. Dilophosaurus	Melody Roar	Climbing Claws	Left Footprint	Emerald Scales	Sticky Traps
Dr. Brontosaurus	Sonic Screech	Grappling Hook	Right Footprint	Sapphire Scales	Loud Noises
Professor Therizinosaurus	Thunderous Roar	Climbing Claws	Right Footprint	Ruby Scales	Loud Noises

CLUE 1 Rounding

> The security camera shows the dino-napper moving past the exhibits. They were carrying a bundle of ropes to climb. The guard tried to grab them, but they slipped away leaving behind their distinctive footprints.

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



Round 16 to the nearest ten ☐ → T

Round 204 to the nearest hundred ☐ → O

Round 93 to the nearest ten ☐ → D

Round 83 to the nearest ten ☐ → E

Round 477 to the nearest hundred ☐ → I

Round 2,164 to the nearest thousand ☐ → C

Round 6,586 to the nearest thousand ☐ → L

Round 9,227 to the nearest thousand ☐ → Y

Round 66 to the nearest ten ☐ → V

Round 5,222 to the nearest thousand ☐ → G

Round 596 to the nearest hundred ☐ → N

Round 685 to the nearest hundred ☐ → F

Round 8,193 to the nearest thousand ☐ → P

Round 61 to the nearest ten ☐ → H

Round 3,080 to the nearest thousand ☐ → A

Round 52 to the nearest ten ☐ → B

Round 373 to the nearest hundred ☐ → M

Round 278 to the nearest hundred ☐ → S

Round 5,974 to the nearest thousand ☐ → R

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Word problems

> A readout from the museum's seismic sensor shows unusual vibrations. It only displays the nearest whole number to the actual reading, making it hard to tell exactly how strong the tremors were.

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

A witness saw the villain was

| R | | | | | | | | | P | R | | N | | .
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 37 | 75 | 59 | 27 | 54 | 47 | 47 | 27 | | 9 | 37 | | 27 | |

Dino-napper lined up 3 rows of 3 amber. How many amber in all? ☐ → **R**

Dino-napper found 25 amber yesterday and 50 more today. How many amber in all? ☐ → **G**

Dino-napper found 15 fossil yesterday and 44 more today. How many fossil in all? ☐ → **H**

There were 88 egg. 34 were used up. How many egg are left? ☐ → **F**

There were 63 amber. 36 were used up. How many amber are left? ☐ → **T**

Dino-napper found 26 geode yesterday and 21 more today. How many geode in all? ☐ → **O**

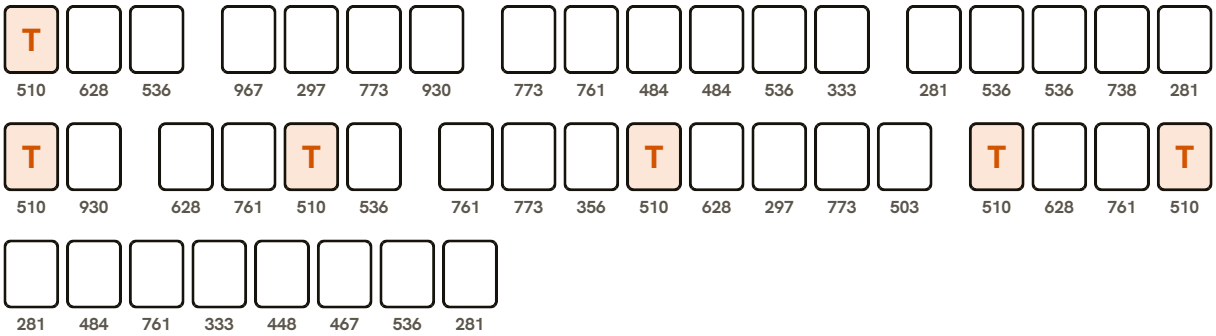
There were 47 egg. 10 were used up. How many egg are left? ☐ → **I**

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Addition

> The paleontologist was cataloging fossils when the meteorite vanished. They had a pile of ancient fern fronds and a bag of fossilized seeds ready to be counted for a new display.

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



186 + 324 = ☐ → T

318 + 443 = ☐ → A

241 + 262 = ☐ → G

111 + 245 = ☐ → Y

584 + 383 = ☐ → D

194 + 87 = ☐ → S

276 + 260 = ☐ → E

336 + 292 = ☐ → H

242 + 225 = ☐ → L

198 + 286 = ☐ → P

165 + 283 = ☐ → K

159 + 174 = ☐ → R

637 + 293 = ☐ → O

492 + 246 = ☐ → M

200 + 97 = ☐ → I

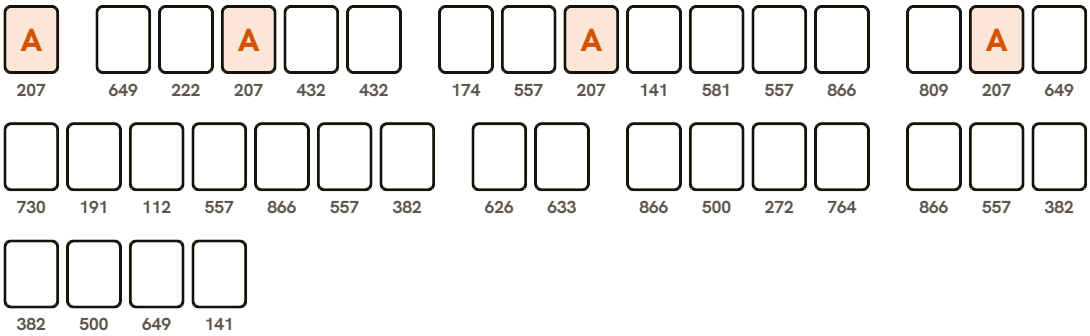
508 + 265 = ☐ → N

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Subtraction

> A frightened museum patron saw the dino-napper escape through a ventilation shaft. They tried to count how many crates the dino-napper knocked over on their way out, but they were too scared to get a good look.

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



262 - 55 = ☐ → A

1109 - 300 = ☐ → W

796 - 239 = ☐ → E

715 - 134 = ☐ → H

1018 - 288 = ☐ → C

791 - 27 = ☐ → Y

863 - 363 = ☐ → U

615 - 183 = ☐ → L

160 - 48 = ☐ → V

384 - 162 = ☐ → M

493 - 111 = ☐ → D

766 - 140 = ☐ → I

453 - 312 = ☐ → T

435 - 163 = ☐ → B

1008 - 375 = ☐ → N

904 - 38 = ☐ → R

321 - 130 = ☐ → O

1010 - 361 = ☐ → S

303 - 129 = ☐ → F

Scratch space:

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

> One of the museum's robotic dinosaur guides was found with its energy cells depleted. It had been trying to share its remaining power with other machines when the incident happened.

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:

20 ÷ 5 = ☐ | 28 ÷ 4 = ☐ | 36 ÷ 6 = ☐ | 77 ÷ 7 = ☐ | 24 ÷ 2 = ☐

32 ÷ 4 = ☐ | 108 ÷ 12 = ☐ | 10 ÷ 10 = ☐ | 70 ÷ 7 = ☐ | 33 ÷ 11 = ☐

45 ÷ 9 = ☐

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain covered its tracks, then put on a stealth suit.
2. The villain ran away, then used a grappling hook.
3. The villain grabbed the meteorite, then put on a stealth suit.
4. The villain grabbed the meteorite, then used climbing claws.
5. The villain hid the meteorite, then set a net trap.
6. The villain covered its tracks, then used a grappling hook.
7. The villain stashed the meteorite, then used a grappling hook.
8. The villain covered its tracks, then used climbing claws.
9. The villain hid the meteorite, then used climbing claws.
10. The villain covered its tracks, then set a net trap.
11. The villain grabbed the meteorite, then used a grappling hook.
12. The villain ran away, then activated a dino tracker.

TEACHER / PARENT

Answer Key

The Case of the Missing Meteorite

Culprit: Dr. Hadrosaurus

Gale Force Roar · Grappling Hook · Right Footprint · Ruby Scales · Loud Noises

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 19 → Clue 2 12 → Clue 3 6 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Rounding): "THE DINO NAPPER LEAVES BIG SCALY FOOTPRINTS AND CARRIES A ROPE TO CLIMB"

Round 16 to the nearest ten = 20 (T) · Round 204 to the nearest hundred = 200 (O) · Round 93 to the nearest ten = 90 (D) · Round 83 to the nearest ten = 80 (E) · Round 477 to the nearest hundred = 500 (I) · Round 2,164 to the nearest thousand = 2000 (C) · Round 6,586 to the nearest thousand = 7000 (L) · Round 9,227 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (Y) · Round 66 to the nearest ten = 70 (V) · Round 5,222 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (G) · Round 596 to the nearest hundred = 600 (N) · Round 685 to the nearest hundred = 700 (F) · Round 8,193 to the nearest thousand = 8000 (P) · Round 61 to the nearest ten = 60 (H) · Round 3,080 to the nearest thousand = 3000 (A) · Round 52 to the nearest ten = 50 (B) · Round 373 to the nearest hundred = 400 (M) · Round 278 to the nearest hundred = 300 (S) · Round 5,974 to the nearest thousand = 6000 (R)

Clue 2 (Word problems): "RIGHT FOOTPRINT"

Dino-napper lined up 3 rows of 3 amber. How many amber in all? = 9 (R) · Dino-napper found 25 amber yesterday and 50 more today. How many amber in all? = 75 (G) · Dino-napper found 15 fossil yesterday and 44 more today. How many fossil in all? = 59 (H) · There were 88 egg. 34 were used up. How many egg are left? = 54 (F) · There were 63 amber. 36 were used up. How many amber are left? = 27 (T) · Dino-napper found 26 geode yesterday and 21 more today. How many geode in all? = 47 (O) · There were 47 egg. 10 were used up. How many egg are left? = 37 (I)

Clue 3 (Addition): "THE DINO NAPPER SEEMS TO HATE ANYTHING THAT SPARKLES"

186 + 324 = 510 (T) · 318 + 443 = 761 (A) · 241 + 262 = 503 (G) · 111 + 245 = 356 (Y) · 584 + 383 = 967 (D) · 194 + 87 = 281 (S) · 276 + 260 = 536 (E) · 336 + 292 = 628 (H) · 242 + 225 = 467 (L) · 198 + 286 = 484 (P) · 165 + 283 = 448 (K) · 159 + 174 = 333 (R) · 637 + 293 = 930 (O) · 492 + 246 = 738 (M) · 200 + 97 = 297 (I) · 508 + 265 = 773 (N)

Clue 4 (Subtraction): "A SMALL FEATHER WAS COVERED IN RUBY RED DUST"

262 - 55 = 207 (A) · 1109 - 300 = 809 (W) · 796 - 239 = 557 (E) · 715 - 134 = 581 (H) · 1018 - 288 = 730 (C) · 791 - 27 = 764 (Y) · 863 - 363 = 500 (U) · 615 - 183 = 432 (L) · 160 - 48 = 112 (V) · 384 - 162 = 222 (M) · 493 - 111 = 382 (D) · 766 - 140 = 626 (I) · 453 - 312 = 141 (T) · 435 - 163 = 272 (B) · 1008 - 375 = 633 (N) · 904 - 38 = 866 (R) · 321 - 130 = 191 (O) · 1010 - 361 = 649 (S) · 303 - 129 = 174 (F)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 2 → Dr. Hadrosaurus

20 ÷ 5 = 4 · 28 ÷ 4 = 7 · 36 ÷ 6 = 6 · 77 ÷ 7 = 11 · 24 ÷ 2 = 12 · 32 ÷ 4 = 8 · 108 ÷ 12 = 9 · 10 ÷ 10 = 1 · 70 ÷ 7 = 10 · 33 ÷ 11 = 3 · 45 ÷ 9 = 5