



The Championship Ball Caper

Grade 5 math · Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Multi-step word problems, Division · Reading level grades 3-4

Detective: _____ Date: _____

The legendary Golden Championship Ball has gone missing right before the big NBA Finals game! A mysterious sneaker-wearing bandit snuck onto the center court and swapped the real trophy with a bouncy rubber fake.

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 the Ball Bandit 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	SNEAKER TECH	SHOOTING HAND	HEADBAND STYLE	SILLY WEAKNESS
Jaylen Brown	Sky Hook	Glow In Dark Laces	Right Handed Shooter	Neon Green Headband	Always Ball Hogging
James Harden	Sky Hook	Spring Heels	Right Handed Shooter	Neon Green Headband	Always Ball Hogging
Trae Young	Spin Move	Spring Heels	Left Handed Shooter	Stripe White Headband	Always Ball Hogging
Donovan Mitchell	Spin Move	Air Cushion Soles	Right Handed Shooter	Neon Green Headband	Frequent Double Dribble
Bam Adebayo	Spin Move	Glow In Dark Laces	Left Handed Shooter	Neon Green Headband	Always Ball Hogging
Paul George	No Look Pass	Air Cushion Soles	Left Handed Shooter	Neon Green Headband	Always Ball Hogging
DeAaron Fox	Killer Crossover	Sticky Sole Grip	Right Handed Shooter	Neon Green Headband	Squeaky Sneakers
LeBron James	Step Back Three	Sticky Sole Grip	Right Handed Shooter	Neon Green Headband	Always Ball Hogging
Devin Booker	Step Back Three	Air Cushion Soles	Right Handed Shooter	Neon Green Headband	Always Ball Hogging
Kevin Durant	Spin Move	Air Cushion Soles	Left Handed Shooter	Neon Green Headband	Frequent Double Dribble
Anthony Davis	No Look Pass	Spring Heels	Right Handed Shooter	Solid Black Headband	Always Ball Hogging
Damian Lillard	No Look Pass	Sticky Sole Grip	Left Handed Shooter	Stripe White Headband	Squeaky Sneakers
Kawhi Leonard	Killer Crossover	Turbo Foam Cushions	Right Handed Shooter	Neon Green Headband	Always Ball Hogging
Zion Williamson	Sky Hook	Turbo Foam Cushions	Right Handed Shooter	Stripe White Headband	Frequent Double Dribble
Nikola Jokic	Killer Crossover	Spring Heels	Left Handed Shooter	Neon Green Headband	Squeaky Sneakers
Stephen Curry	Step Back Three	Turbo Foam Cushions	Left Handed Shooter	Neon Green Headband	Always Ball Hogging
Kyrie Irving	No Look Pass	Spring Heels	Right Handed Shooter	Stripe White Headband	Always Ball Hogging
Giannis Antetokounmpo	No Look Pass	Air Cushion Soles	Left Handed Shooter	Neon Green Headband	Frequent Double Dribble
Luka Doncic	Step Back Three	Spring Heels	Right Handed Shooter	Stripe White Headband	Squeaky Sneakers
Anthony Edwards	No Look Pass	Sticky Sole Grip	Right Handed Shooter	Solid Black Headband	Frequent Double Dribble
Joel Embiid	No Look Pass	Air Cushion Soles	Left Handed Shooter	Solid Black Headband	Squeaky Sneakers

CLUE 1 Addition

The coach is counting up all the practice basketballs in the equipment room. Add these balls together to find the first clue!

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

T																			
7195	9003	6102	5739	5448	2718	2082	9808	7195	2082	7229	6102	3457	2718	7229	7195	6054	3457	6102	
3634	7822	7229	8665	9808	2718	2082	5448	6490	6584	7822	5448	2353	6102	3457					

$4267 + 2928 = \square \rightarrow \text{T}$	$4560 + 3262 = \square \rightarrow \text{L}$	$2055 + 4529 = \square \rightarrow \text{K}$
$6622 + 3186 = \square \rightarrow \text{I}$	$3182 + 2266 = \square \rightarrow \text{A}$	$906 + 1176 = \square \rightarrow \text{D}$
$3753 + 2349 = \square \rightarrow \text{E}$	$4735 + 3930 = \square \rightarrow \text{W}$	$1700 + 1757 = \square \rightarrow \text{S}$
$872 + 1481 = \square \rightarrow \text{C}$	$3005 + 5998 = \square \rightarrow \text{H}$	$1749 + 969 = \square \rightarrow \text{N}$
$3582 + 2908 = \square \rightarrow \text{R}$	$1378 + 2256 = \square \rightarrow \text{G}$	$1754 + 3985 = \square \rightarrow \text{B}$
$3680 + 2374 = \square \rightarrow \text{U}$	$2857 + 4372 = \square \rightarrow \text{O}$	

Scratch space:

CLUE 2

Subtraction

The defense took away some of the training cones on the court. Subtract the lost cones to reveal the next clue!

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

T 4126	6764	7856	T 4126	6764	8834	7856	3408	7793	6764	4382	T 4126	T 4126	6764	7856	2473	8738	8052	8052
5924	8834	T 4126	6764	T 4126	6764	7856	8834	5825	5825	8834	1147	6764	T 4126	6764	8738	8197	4586	

$7427 - 3301 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{T}$

$8365 - 3779 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{D}$

$8487 - 4105 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{O}$

$11236 - 3443 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{S}$

$9293 - 1241 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{L}$

$9392 - 3468 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{W}$

$9444 - 1247 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{N}$

$5161 - 1753 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{F}$

$12093 - 3259 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{I}$

$10731 - 4906 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{R}$

$12832 - 4094 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{A}$

$10694 - 3930 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{H}$

$2750 - 1603 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{G}$

$9437 - 1581 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{E}$

$5472 - 2999 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{B}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Multiplication facts (1-12)

Each big metal rack holds the exact same number of player jerseys. Multiply the racks by jerseys to unlock this clue!

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

T												T				
54	88	44	63	60	100	25	44	30	28	64	20	54	70	56	44	96

T																	T	
54	88	44	4	24	100	60	60	88	20	11	11	70	64	11	100	60	20	54

$6 \times 9 = \square \rightarrow$ T	$4 \times 11 = \square \rightarrow$ E	$1 \times 4 = \square \rightarrow$ M	$7 \times 8 = \square \rightarrow$ C
$5 \times 5 = \square \rightarrow$ Y	$8 \times 8 = \square \rightarrow$ N	$6 \times 4 = \square \rightarrow$ B	$10 \times 2 = \square \rightarrow$ O
$4 \times 7 = \square \rightarrow$ S	$12 \times 8 = \square \rightarrow$ D	$1 \times 11 = \square \rightarrow$ G	
$10 \times 10 = \square \rightarrow$ A	$6 \times 10 = \square \rightarrow$ L	$9 \times 7 = \square \rightarrow$ P	
$7 \times 10 = \square \rightarrow$ I	$5 \times 6 = \square \rightarrow$ R	$11 \times 8 = \square \rightarrow$ H	

Scratch space:

CLUE 4

Multi-step word problems

The stadium ticket booth sold many seats, had some returned, and then sold more. Solve this puzzle to get the clue!

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

A strand of N N N D B N D hair

50 25 82 50 6 75 25 25 50 84 25 70 70 50

turned up at the scene.

There were 304 towels in all. 2 the Hoop Stars used 27 towels each. The other 5 the Hoop Stars shared the rest equally. How many towels did each of the other the Hoop Stars get?

Answer: → N

The rookie player filled 2 boxes with 7 basketballs each, then found 11 more basketballs. How many basketballs are there in all?

Answer: → E

The rookie player collected 180 wristbands in the morning and 148 wristbands in the afternoon, then split them equally among 4 the Hoop Stars. How many wristbands did each get?

Answer: → O

The rookie player earned 3 towels in each of 4 rounds, plus 70 bonus towels. Then 12 towels were lost. How many towels are left?

Answer: → A

The rookie player earned 5 towels in each of 2 rounds, plus 70 bonus towels. Then 5 towels were lost. How many towels are left?

Answer: → R

The rookie player collected 7 sneakers in the morning and 5 sneakers in the afternoon, then split them equally among 2 the Hoop Stars. How many sneakers did each get?

Answer: → G

There were 294 towels in all. 2 the Hoop Stars used 21 towels each. The other 3 the Hoop Stars shared the rest equally. How many towels did each of the other the Hoop Stars get?

Answer: → H

Scratch space:

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

The team trainer wants to split the sports drinks evenly among the active players. Divide the drinks to find 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:

$120 \div 12 = \boxed{}$

$6 \div 3 = \boxed{}$

$60 \div 5 = \boxed{}$

$72 \div 12 = \boxed{}$

$110 \div 10 = \boxed{}$

$44 \div 11 = \boxed{}$

$25 \div 5 = \boxed{}$

$96 \div 12 = \boxed{}$

$84 \div 12 = \boxed{}$

$9 \div 1 = \boxed{}$

$2 \div 2 = \boxed{}$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain spin past the defense, then zoom past on turbo foam cushions.
2. The villain sink a step back three, then float up with air cushion soles.
3. The villain sink a step back three, then dash off with sticky sole grip.
4. The villain spin past the defense, then float up with air cushion soles.
5. The villain spin past the defense, then dash off with sticky sole grip.
6. The villain do a killer crossover, then float up with air cushion soles.
7. The villain spin past the defense, then bounce away using spring heels.
8. The villain fake a flashy sky hook, then zoom past on turbo foam cushions.
9. The villain sink a step back three, then bounce away using spring heels.
10. The villain fake a flashy sky hook, then bounce away using spring heels.
11. The villain fake a flashy sky hook, then slide out in glow laces.
12. The villain do a killer crossover, then zoom past on turbo foam cushions.

Answer Key

The Championship Ball Caper

Culprit: LeBron James

Step Back Three · Sticky Sole Grip · Right Handed Shooter · Neon Green Headband · Always Ball Hogging

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 19 → Clue 2 11 → Clue 3 6 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Addition): "THE BANDIT DOES NOT USE GLOW IN DARK LACES"

$4267 + 2928 = 7195$ (T) · $4560 + 3262 = 7822$ (L) · $2055 + 4529 = 6584$ (K) · $6622 + 3186 = 9808$ (I) · $3182 + 2266 = 5448$ (A) · $906 + 1176 = 2082$ (D) · $3753 + 2349 = 6102$ (E) · $4735 + 3930 = 8665$ (W) · $1700 + 1757 = 3457$ (S) · $872 + 1481 = 2353$ (C) · $3005 + 5998 = 9003$ (H) · $1749 + 969 = 2718$ (N) · $3582 + 2908 = 6490$ (R) · $1378 + 2256 = 3634$ (G) · $1754 + 3985 = 5739$ (B) · $3680 + 2374 = 6054$ (U) · $2857 + 4372 = 7229$ (O)

Clue 2 (Subtraction): "THE THIEF SHOT THE BALL WITH THEIR RIGHT HAND"

$7427 - 3301 = 4126$ (T) · $8365 - 3779 = 4586$ (D) · $8487 - 4105 = 4382$ (O) · $11236 - 3443 = 7793$ (S) · $9293 - 1241 = 8052$ (L) · $9392 - 3468 = 5924$ (W) · $9444 - 1247 = 8197$ (N) · $5161 - 1753 = 3408$ (F) · $12093 - 3259 = 8834$ (I) · $10731 - 4906 = 5825$ (R) · $12832 - 4094 = 8738$ (A) · $10694 - 3930 = 6764$ (H) · $2750 - 1603 = 1147$ (G) · $9437 - 1581 = 7856$ (E) · $5472 - 2999 = 2473$ (B)

Clue 3 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "THE PLAYERS NOTICED THEM BALL HOGGING A LOT"

$6 \times 9 = 54$ (T) · $4 \times 11 = 44$ (E) · $1 \times 4 = 4$ (M) · $7 \times 8 = 56$ (C) · $5 \times 5 = 25$ (Y) · $8 \times 8 = 64$ (N) · $6 \times 4 = 24$ (B) · $10 \times 2 = 20$ (O) · $4 \times 7 = 28$ (S) · $12 \times 8 = 96$ (D) · $1 \times 11 = 11$ (G) · $10 \times 10 = 100$ (A) · $6 \times 10 = 60$ (L) · $9 \times 7 = 63$ (P) · $7 \times 10 = 70$ (I) · $5 \times 6 = 30$ (R) · $11 \times 8 = 88$ (H)

Clue 4 (Multi-step word problems): "NEON GREEN HEADBAND"

There were 304 towels in all. 2 the Hoop Stars used 27 towels each. The other 5 the Hoop Stars shared the rest equally. How many towels did each of the other the Hoop Stars get? = 50 (N) · The rookie player filled 2 boxes with 7 basketballs each, then found 11 more basketballs. How many basketballs are there in all? = 25 (E) · The rookie player collected 180 wristbands in the morning and 148 wristbands in the afternoon, then split them equally among 4 the Hoop Stars. How many wristbands did each get? = 82 (O) · The rookie player earned 3 towels in each of 4 rounds, plus 70 bonus towels. Then 12 towels were lost. How many towels are left? = 70 (A) · The rookie player earned 5 towels in each of 2 rounds, plus 70 bonus towels. Then 5 towels were lost. How many towels are left? = 75 (R) · The rookie player collected 7 sneakers in the morning and 5 sneakers in the afternoon, then split them equally among 2 the Hoop Stars. How many sneakers did each get? = 6 (G) · There were 294 towels in all. 2 the Hoop Stars used 21 towels each. The other 3 the Hoop Stars shared the rest equally. How many towels did each of the other the Hoop Stars get? = 84 (H)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 3 → LeBron James

$120 \div 12 = 10$ · $6 \div 3 = 2$ · $60 \div 5 = 12$ · $72 \div 12 = 6$ · $110 \div 10 = 11$ · $44 \div 11 = 4$ · $25 \div 5 = 5$ · $96 \div 12 = 8$ · $84 \div 12 = 7$ · $9 \div 1 = 9$ · $2 \div 2 = 1$