

The Golden Apple Heist

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

A sneaky player broke into the main castle and stole the ultra-rare Golden Apple right out of the Admin's locked chest! The culprit is still online somewhere in the biome. We must look at the blocky evidence, solve the clues, and find out who did it before they log off for the night.

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 mysterious griever is _____

Possible suspects

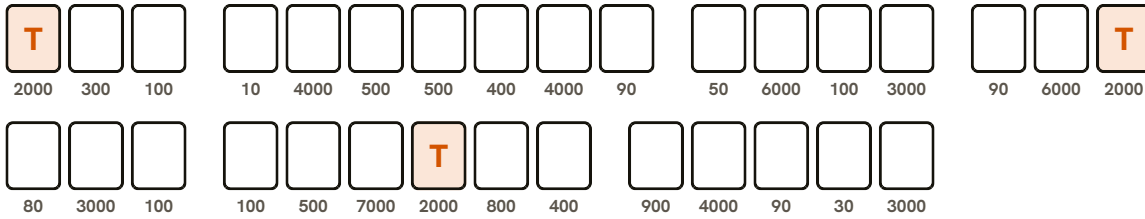
Cross off a row as each clue rules it out. The one left at the end is the culprit.

NAME	GRIEFING ACTION	HELD TOOL	TORCH PLACEMENT HAND	HELMET CHOICE	FOIL WEAPON
Stampy	spawning creepers	enchanted bow	holding torch in left hand	leather cap	splashed with water
George	placing lava blocks	elytra wings	holding torch in right hand	leather cap	hit with snowballs
Dream	building obsidian walls	ender pearls	holding torch in left hand	golden helmet	trapped in cobwebs
Steve	placing lava blocks	ender pearls	holding torch in right hand	iron helmet	splashed with water
Sky	brewing poison potions	elytra wings	holding torch in left hand	iron helmet	splashed with water
Tubbo	building obsidian walls	diamond pickaxe	holding torch in left hand	leather cap	hit with snowballs
Sparklez	spawning creepers	ender pearls	holding torch in left hand	leather cap	splashed with water
Etho	spawning creepers	elytra wings	holding torch in left hand	leather cap	splashed with water
Scar	brewing poison potions	enchanted bow	holding torch in left hand	iron helmet	splashed with water
Sapnap	digging straight down	enchanted bow	holding torch in left hand	iron helmet	splashed with water
Hermit	brewing poison potions	netherite sword	holding torch in left hand	iron helmet	hit with snowballs
DanTDM	brewing poison potions	diamond pickaxe	holding torch in left hand	iron helmet	hit with snowballs
Joel	placing lava blocks	elytra wings	holding torch in right hand	golden helmet	trapped in cobwebs
Techno	spawning creepers	enchanted bow	holding torch in left hand	iron helmet	splashed with water
Ranboo	brewing poison potions	netherite sword	holding torch in right hand	iron helmet	trapped in cobwebs
Grian	brewing poison potions	diamond pickaxe	holding torch in right hand	golden helmet	hit with snowballs
Alex	digging straight down	enchanted bow	holding torch in right hand	golden helmet	trapped in cobwebs
Philza	placing lava blocks	enchanted bow	holding torch in right hand	leather cap	splashed with water
BadBoyHalo	placing lava blocks	enchanted bow	holding torch in left hand	iron helmet	splashed with water
Tommy	building obsidian walls	netherite sword	holding torch in right hand	golden helmet	hit with snowballs
Lizzie	spawning creepers	netherite sword	holding torch in right hand	golden helmet	splashed with water

CLUE 1 Place value

Glowing redstone dust leaves behind a trail of energy. Let's look at the power readout on this block to see which digit is in the tens place.

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



What is the value of the 2 in 2,778? → **T**

What is the value of the 4 in 5,463? → **A**

What is the value of the 4 in 4,018? → **I**

What is the value of the 9 in 926? → **W**

What is the value of the 1 in 6,178? → **E**

What is the value of the 3 in 8,325? → **H**

What is the value of the 1 in 610? → **V**

What is the value of the 6 in 6,222? → **O**

What is the value of the 5 in 6,457? → **D**

What is the value of the 3 in 538? → **G**

What is the value of the 5 in 4,598? → **L**

What is the value of the 7 in 57,636? → **Y**

What is the value of the 3 in 73,590? → **S**

What is the value of the 8 in 839? → **R**

What is the value of the 8 in 685? → **U**

What is the value of the 9 in 5,391? → **N**

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Addition

A double chest is filled with looted cobblestone. If we add up the blocks in the top and bottom rows, we will find the clue code.

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

T								T								
205	979	642	321	930	916	930	205	943	754	942	919	374	438	642	418	

T										T							T
205	943	754	438	979	642	916	943	379	205	979	642	919	642	338	205		

653	374	919	919

$116 + 89 = \square \rightarrow$ T	$232 + 186 = \square \rightarrow$ D	$247 + 132 = \square \rightarrow$ N
$202 + 119 = \square \rightarrow$ V	$499 + 420 = \square \rightarrow$ L	$133 + 241 = \square \rightarrow$ A
$365 + 551 = \square \rightarrow$ S	$357 + 622 = \square \rightarrow$ H	$479 + 463 = \square \rightarrow$ P
$213 + 225 = \square \rightarrow$ C	$488 + 442 = \square \rightarrow$ I	$657 + 286 = \square \rightarrow$ O
$444 + 198 = \square \rightarrow$ E	$253 + 501 = \square \rightarrow$ R	$296 + 357 = \square \rightarrow$ W
$132 + 206 = \square \rightarrow$ F		

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Rounding

The coordinates on the compass are glitching. We must round the numbers to the nearest ten to pinpoint the thief's escape path.

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

T			T															
200	2000	30	200	2000	40	30	50	4000	500	5000	500	80	500	20	80	2000	30	5000
		T																
80	500	200	30	4000	50	3000	600	80	30	70								

Round 200 to the nearest hundred → **T**

Round 24 to the nearest ten → **Y**

Round 4,031 to the nearest thousand → **R**

Round 4,696 to the nearest thousand → **N**

Round 70 to the nearest ten → **D**

Round 80 to the nearest ten → **W**

Round 3,055 to the nearest thousand → **L**

Round 30 to the nearest ten → **E**

Round 54 to the nearest ten → **F**

Round 621 to the nearest hundred → **O**

Round 507 to the nearest hundred → **A**

Round 2,076 to the nearest thousand → **H**

Round 42 to the nearest ten → **I**

Scratch space:

CLUE 4

The thief dropped a bundle of torches on the grass. Subtracting the torches left behind from the full stack will reveal the next secret.

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

A number line from 0 to 1000 with boxes for numbers and their place value components. The number 899 is highlighted in orange.

Number	800s	100s	10s	1s
899	8	9	9	
303		3	0	3
544	5	4	4	
827	8	2	7	
841	8	4	1	
303		3	0	3
886	8	8	6	
105		1	0	5
256	2	5	6	
275	2	7	5	
105		1	0	5
236	2	3	6	

$1007 - 108 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{A}}$

$$569 - 25 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$$

$$339 - 234 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$$

$1068 - 227 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{0}$

$1108 - 400 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{G}}$

$1143 - 257 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$798 - 293 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$$566 - 310 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{L}}$$

$255 - 81 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$462 - 159 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$$335 - 47 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$$

454 - 218 = →

$$1037 - 210 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$$

$277 - 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{M}}$

Scratch space:

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

We found a pack of hungry wolves at the spawn point. Sharing the bones equally among them will make them happy enough to sniff out a 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:

$108 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$27 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$88 \div 11 = \boxed{}$

$8 \div 2 = \boxed{}$

$99 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$3 \div 3 = \boxed{}$

$45 \div 5 = \boxed{}$

$5 \div 1 = \boxed{}$

$10 \div 5 = \boxed{}$

$48 \div 8 = \boxed{}$

$40 \div 4 = \boxed{}$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain spawned scary creepers, then teleported away using ender pearls.
2. The villain spawned scary creepers, then dug away with a diamond pickaxe.
3. The villain brewed nasty poison, then shot arrows with an enchanted bow.
4. The villain built giant obsidian walls, then dug away with a diamond pickaxe.
5. The villain dug straight down, then flew off with elytra wings.
6. The villain spawned scary creepers, then flew off with elytra wings.
7. The villain dug straight down, then shot arrows with an enchanted bow.
8. The villain placed burning lava blocks, then shot arrows with an enchanted bow.
9. The villain built giant obsidian walls, then flew off with elytra wings.
10. The villain spawned scary creepers, then escaped with a netherite sword.
11. The villain brewed nasty poison, then teleported away using ender pearls.
12. The villain spawned scary creepers, then shot arrows with an enchanted bow.

Answer Key

The Golden Apple Heist

Culprit: Sapnap

digging straight down · enchanted bow · holding torch in left hand · iron helmet · splashed with water

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 17 → Clue 2 10 → Clue 3 6 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Place value): "THE VILLAIN DOES NOT USE ELYTRA WINGS"

What is the value of the 2 in 2,778? = 2000 (T) · What is the value of the 4 in 5,463? = 400 (A) · What is the value of the 4 in 4,018? = 4000 (I) · What is the value of the 9 in 926? = 900 (W) · What is the value of the 1 in 6,178? = 100 (E) · What is the value of the 3 in 8,325? = 300 (H) · What is the value of the 1 in 610? = 10 (V) · What is the value of the 6 in 6,222? = 6000 (O) · What is the value of the 5 in 6,457? = 50 (D) · What is the value of the 3 in 538? = 30 (G) · What is the value of the 5 in 4,598? = 500 (L) · What is the value of the 7 in 57,636? = 7000 (Y) · What is the value of the 3 in 73,590? = 3000 (S) · What is the value of the 8 in 839? = 800 (R) · What is the value of the 8 in 685? = 80 (U) · What is the value of the 9 in 5,391? = 90 (N)

Clue 2 (Addition): "THE VISITOR PLACED TORCHES ON THE LEFT WALL"

$116 + 89 = 205$ (T) · $232 + 186 = 418$ (D) · $247 + 132 = 379$ (N) · $202 + 119 = 321$ (V) · $499 + 420 = 919$ (L) · $133 + 241 = 374$ (A) · $365 + 551 = 916$ (S) · $357 + 622 = 979$ (H) · $479 + 463 = 942$ (P) · $213 + 225 = 438$ (C) · $488 + 442 = 930$ (I) · $657 + 286 = 943$ (O) · $444 + 198 = 642$ (E) · $253 + 501 = 754$ (R) · $296 + 357 = 653$ (W) · $132 + 206 = 338$ (F)

Clue 3 (Rounding): "THE THIEF RAN AWAY WHEN WATER FLOWED"

Round 200 to the nearest hundred = 200 (T) · Round 24 to the nearest ten = 20 (Y) · Round 4,031 to the nearest thousand = 4000 (R) · Round 4,696 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (N) · Round 70 to the nearest ten = 70 (D) · Round 80 to the nearest ten = 80 (W) · Round 3,055 to the nearest thousand = 3000 (L) · Round 30 to the nearest ten = 30 (E) · Round 54 to the nearest ten = 50 (F) · Round 621 to the nearest hundred = 600 (O) · Round 507 to the nearest hundred = 500 (A) · Round 2,076 to the nearest thousand = 2000 (H) · Round 42 to the nearest ten = 40 (I)

Clue 4 (Subtraction): "AN IRON HELMET SCRATCHED THE CEILING"

$1007 - 108 = 899$ (A) · $569 - 25 = 544$ (I) · $339 - 234 = 105$ (E) · $1068 - 227 = 841$ (O) · $1108 - 400 = 708$ (G) · $1143 - 257 = 886$ (H) · $798 - 293 = 505$ (C) · $566 - 310 = 256$ (L) · $255 - 81 = 174$ (D) · $462 - 159 = 303$ (N) · $335 - 47 = 288$ (S) · $454 - 218 = 236$ (T) · $1037 - 210 = 827$ (R) · $277 - 2 = 275$ (M)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 7 → Sapnap

$108 \div 9 = 12$ · $27 \div 9 = 3$ · $88 \div 11 = 8$ · $8 \div 2 = 4$ · $99 \div 9 = 11$ · $3 \div 3 = 1$ · $45 \div 5 = 9$ · $5 \div 1 = 5$ · $10 \div 5 = 2$ · $48 \div 8 = 6$ · $40 \div 4 = 10$