The Golden Cup Mystery

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

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

The Golden Cup has vanished right before the big World Cup final! The Head Referee is in a huge panic. A mysterious player swiped the trophy from the display case. We must track the clues left behind on the soccer pitch to find out which famous star 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 Trophy Thief is _____

Possible suspects

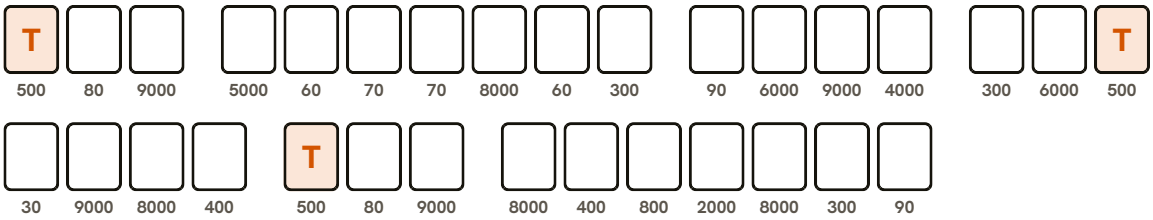
Cross off a row as each clue rules it out. The one left at the end is the culprit.

NAME	SIGNATURE MOVE	LUCKY GEAR	PREFERRED FOOT	HAIRSTYLE	MATCH OBSTACLE
Antoine Griezmann	Bicycle Kick	Captain Armband	Left Footed	Curly Orange Hair	Bright Stadium Light
Karim Benzema	Laser Pass	Neon Headband	Right Footed	Neon Green Hair	Squeaky Turf
Sam Kerr	Bicycle Kick	Lucky Sock	Left Footed	Neon Green Hair	Squeaky Turf
Luka Modric	Lightning Dribble	Golden Cleats	Right Footed	Spiky Blue Hair	Bright Stadium Light
Kevin De Bruyne	Bicycle Kick	Lucky Sock	Left Footed	Neon Green Hair	Bright Stadium Light
Lionel Messi	Bicycle Kick	Golden Cleats	Right Footed	Spiky Blue Hair	Squeaky Turf
Bruno Fernandes	Bicycle Kick	Neon Headband	Left Footed	Neon Green Hair	Slippery Mud
Alisson Becker	Lightning Dribble	Lucky Sock	Right Footed	Curly Orange Hair	Slippery Mud
Harry Kane	Rocket Kick	Lucky Sock	Right Footed	Neon Green Hair	Bright Stadium Light
Robert Lewandowski	Laser Pass	Shiny Whistle	Right Footed	Spiky Blue Hair	Bright Stadium Light
Megan Rapinoe	Rocket Kick	Golden Cleats	Right Footed	Spiky Blue Hair	Squeaky Turf
Heung Min Son	Super Header	Shiny Whistle	Left Footed	Spiky Blue Hair	Bright Stadium Light
Mohamed Salah	Bicycle Kick	Neon Headband	Right Footed	Spiky Blue Hair	Squeaky Turf
Erling Haaland	Bicycle Kick	Captain Armband	Left Footed	Spiky Blue Hair	Slippery Mud
Bukayo Saka	Rocket Kick	Golden Cleats	Right Footed	Neon Green Hair	Bright Stadium Light
Manuel Neuer	Super Header	Lucky Sock	Right Footed	Spiky Blue Hair	Slippery Mud
Alex Morgan	Bicycle Kick	Shiny Whistle	Right Footed	Neon Green Hair	Squeaky Turf
Jude Bellingham	Rocket Kick	Neon Headband	Left Footed	Neon Green Hair	Bright Stadium Light
Neymar Jr	Rocket Kick	Shiny Whistle	Right Footed	Neon Green Hair	Squeaky Turf
Kylian Mbappe	Lightning Dribble	Neon Headband	Right Footed	Neon Green Hair	Squeaky Turf
Sadio Mane	Bicycle Kick	Captain Armband	Right Footed	Neon Green Hair	Squeaky Turf

CLUE 1 Rounding

> Our super-scanner counts the stadium crowd, but the screen only shows the nearest ten. Rounding the fans helps us decode the first clue!

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



Round 522 to the nearest hundred [ ] T	Round 4,339 to the nearest thousand [ ] S	Round 63 to the nearest ten [ ] I
Round 80 to the nearest ten [ ] H	Round 4,507 to the nearest thousand [ ] V	Round 5,840 to the nearest thousand [ ] O
Round 807 to the nearest hundred [ ] M	Round 1,844 to the nearest thousand [ ] B	Round 74 to the nearest ten [ ] L
Round 9,221 to the nearest thousand [ ] E	Round 28 to the nearest ten [ ] W	Round 290 to the nearest hundred [ ] N
Round 8,377 to the nearest thousand [ ] A	Round 430 to the nearest hundred [ ] R	Round 90 to the nearest ten [ ] D

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Addition

> We need to count all the soccer balls scattered on the field. Adding the practice balls together reveals a hidden message!

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

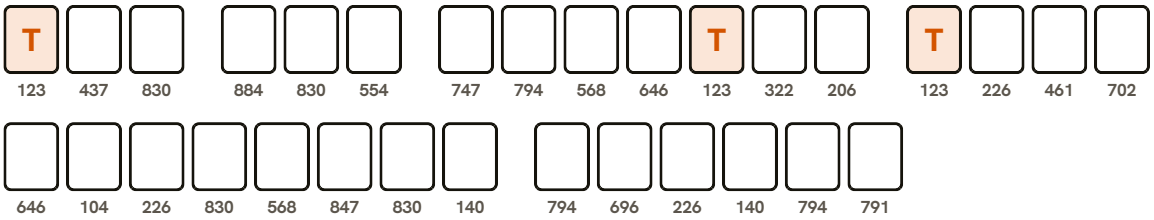
256 + 421 = ☐ **A**	373 + 175 = ☐ **W**	347 + 182 = ☐ **L**
290 + 480 = ☐ **G**	311 + 284 = ☐ **E**	241 + 285 = ☐ **H**
417 + 345 = ☐ **D**	573 + 356 = ☐ **S**	537 + 421 = ☐ **R**
565 + 252 = ☐ **O**	416 + 187 = ☐ **I**	361 + 192 = ☐ **T**
362 + 427 = ☐ **M**	104 + 105 = ☐ **F**	

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Subtraction

> The scoreboard got scrambled by the thief. Subtracting the away score from the home score helps us clear up the fuzzy screen.

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



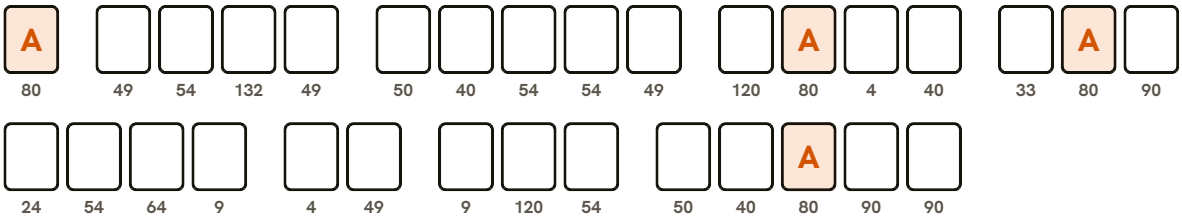
477 - 354 = ☐ **T**	703 - 381 = ☐ **I**	536 - 330 = ☐ **C**
996 - 112 = ☐ **N**	318 - 214 = ☐ **Q**	1036 - 340 = ☐ **O**
647 - 210 = ☐ **H**	850 - 59 = ☐ **Y**	551 - 325 = ☐ **U**
975 - 181 = ☐ **L**	909 - 355 = ☐ **W**	914 - 67 = ☐ **K**
760 - 299 = ☐ **R**	875 - 45 = ☐ **E**	967 - 220 = ☐ **P**
892 - 246 = ☐ **S**	996 - 294 = ☐ **F**	357 - 217 = ☐ **D**
875 - 307 = ☐ **A**		

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Multiplication facts (1-12)

> The team water bottles are lined up in neat rows. Multiplying the rows by the columns lets us unlock the locked locker.

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



10 × 8 = ☐ **A**	7 × 7 = ☐ **N**	6 × 9 = ☐ **E**
5 × 8 = ☐ **R**	5 × 10 = ☐ **G**	1 × 9 = ☐ **T**
8 × 8 = ☐ **F**	9 × 10 = ☐ **S**	2 × 2 = ☐ **I**
11 × 12 = ☐ **O**	2 × 12 = ☐ **L**	11 × 3 = ☐ **W**
12 × 10 = ☐ **H**		

Scratch space:

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

> We have a big box of orange slices to share. Dividing them equally among the players gives us the final secret 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:

36 ÷ 9 = ☐	72 ÷ 8 = ☐	10 ÷ 2 = ☐
60 ÷ 6 = ☐	54 ÷ 9 = ☐	66 ÷ 6 = ☐
6 ÷ 3 = ☐	77 ÷ 11 = ☐	120 ÷ 10 = ☐
40 ÷ 5 = ☐	2 ÷ 2 = ☐	

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain starts a lightning dribble, then flashes their golden cleats.
2. The villain scores a super header, then pulls up their lucky sock.
3. The villain unleashes a rocket kick, then blows a shiny whistle.
4. The villain starts a lightning dribble, then adjusts their neon headband.
5. The villain delivers a laser pass, then adjusts their neon headband.
6. The villain delivers a laser pass, then flashes their golden cleats.
7. The villain starts a lightning dribble, then points to their captain armband.
8. The villain unleashes a rocket kick, then pulls up their lucky sock.
9. The villain attempts a bicycle kick, then blows a shiny whistle.
10. The villain unleashes a rocket kick, then adjusts their neon headband.
11. The villain attempts a bicycle kick, then pulls up their lucky sock.
12. The villain scores a super header, then blows a shiny whistle.

TEACHER / PARENT

Answer Key

The Golden Cup Mystery

Culprit: Neymar Jr

Rocket Kick · Shiny Whistle · Right Footed · Neon Green Hair · Squeaky Turf

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 18 → Clue 2 13 → Clue 3 7 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Rounding): "THE VILLAIN DOES NOT WEAR THE ARMBAND"

Round 522 to the nearest hundred = 500 (T) · Round 4,339 to the nearest thousand = 4000 (S) · Round 63 to the nearest ten = 60 (I) · Round 80 to the nearest ten = 80 (H) · Round 4,507 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (V) · Round 5,840 to the nearest thousand = 6000 (O) · Round 807 to the nearest hundred = 800 (M) · Round 1,844 to the nearest thousand = 2000 (B) · Round 74 to the nearest ten = 70 (L) · Round 9,221 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (E) · Round 28 to the nearest ten = 30 (W) · Round 290 to the nearest hundred = 300 (N) · Round 8,377 to the nearest thousand = 8000 (A) · Round 430 to the nearest hundred = 400 (R) · Round 90 to the nearest ten = 90 (D)

Clue 2 (Addition): "ALL THE DIRT FLEW FROM THE RIGHT SHOE"

256 + 421 = 677 (A) · 373 + 175 = 548 (W) · 347 + 182 = 529 (L) · 290 + 480 = 770 (G) · 311 + 284 = 595 (E) · 241 + 285 = 526 (H) · 417 + 345 = 762 (D) · 573 + 356 = 929 (S) · 537 + 421 = 958 (R) · 565 + 252 = 817 (O) · 416 + 187 = 603 (I) · 361 + 192 = 553 (T) · 362 + 427 = 789 (M) · 104 + 105 = 209 (F)

Clue 3 (Subtraction): "THE NEW PLASTIC TURF SQUEAKED LOUDLY"

477 - 354 = 123 (T) · 703 - 381 = 322 (I) · 536 - 330 = 206 (C) · 996 - 112 = 884 (N) · 318 - 214 = 104 (Q) · 1036 - 340 = 696 (O) · 647 - 210 = 437 (H) · 850 - 59 = 791 (Y) · 551 - 325 = 226 (U) · 975 - 181 = 794 (L) · 909 - 355 = 554 (W) · 914 - 67 = 847 (K) · 760 - 299 = 461 (R) · 875 - 45 = 830 (E) · 967 - 220 = 747 (P) · 892 - 246 = 646 (S) · 996 - 294 = 702 (F) · 357 - 217 = 140 (D) · 875 - 307 = 568 (A)

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

10 × 8 = 80 (A) · 7 × 7 = 49 (N) · 6 × 9 = 54 (E) · 5 × 8 = 40 (R) · 5 × 10 = 50 (G) · 1 × 9 = 9 (T) · 8 × 8 = 64 (F) · 9 × 10 = 90 (S) · 2 × 2 = 4 (I) · 11 × 12 = 132 (O) · 2 × 12 = 24 (L) · 11 × 3 = 33 (W) · 12 × 10 = 120 (H)

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

36 ÷ 9 = 4 · 72 ÷ 8 = 9 · 10 ÷ 2 = 5 · 60 ÷ 6 = 10 · 54 ÷ 9 = 6 · 66 ÷ 6 = 11 · 6 ÷ 3 = 2 · 77 ÷ 11 = 7 · 120 ÷ 10 = 12 · 40 ÷ 5 = 8 · 2 ÷ 2 = 1