



The Golden Goal Mystery

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

The championship trophy has vanished right before the final kick-off! The Phantom Striker left muddy tracks all over the penalty box. Grab your whistle and cleats, Detective! We need to solve the math puzzles, find the clues, and save the tournament.

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 Phantom Striker is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	SIGNATURE TRICK SHOT	SPECIAL GEAR	KICKING FOOT	HAIR STYLE	DEFENSIVE PLAY
Neymar	phantom shadow slide	bouncing super ball	kicks left footed	braided blue ponytail	sticky melted ice cream
Harry	super speed dribble	magical goalkeeper gloves	kicks left footed	bright yellow headband	slippery muddy grass
Sam	rocket volley shot	magnetic shin guards	kicks right footed	braided blue ponytail	loud referee whistle
Alisson	hypnotic ball juggle	magnetic shin guards	kicks left footed	bright yellow headband	sticky melted ice cream
Kevin	gravity defying header	magnetic shin guards	kicks right footed	spiky neon green hair	sticky melted ice cream
Alex	gravity defying header	glowing golden cleats	kicks right footed	braided blue ponytail	slippery muddy grass
Luka	gravity defying header	laser target visor	kicks right footed	bright yellow headband	slippery muddy grass
Erling	phantom shadow slide	magical goalkeeper gloves	kicks right footed	braided blue ponytail	loud referee whistle
Mohamed	phantom shadow slide	bouncing super ball	kicks right footed	spiky neon green hair	slippery muddy grass
Bukayo	gravity defying header	magnetic shin guards	kicks left footed	braided blue ponytail	sticky melted ice cream
Megan	super speed dribble	glowing golden cleats	kicks left footed	braided blue ponytail	sticky melted ice cream
Cristiano	gravity defying header	magnetic shin guards	kicks left footed	bright yellow headband	sticky melted ice cream
Tobin	phantom shadow slide	laser target visor	kicks right footed	braided blue ponytail	loud referee whistle
Son	gravity defying header	glowing golden cleats	kicks left footed	spiky neon green hair	loud referee whistle
Jude	gravity defying header	magical goalkeeper gloves	kicks left footed	bright yellow headband	slippery muddy grass
Lionel	phantom shadow slide	laser target visor	kicks right footed	braided blue ponytail	sticky melted ice cream
Christian	phantom shadow slide	magnetic shin guards	kicks left footed	bright yellow headband	sticky melted ice cream
Marcus	phantom shadow slide	laser target visor	kicks right footed	spiky neon green hair	sticky melted ice cream
Wendie	super speed dribble	laser target visor	kicks left footed	braided blue ponytail	sticky melted ice cream
Virgil	phantom shadow slide	magical goalkeeper gloves	kicks left footed	braided blue ponytail	sticky melted ice cream
Christine	phantom shadow slide	magical goalkeeper gloves	kicks left footed	braided blue ponytail	loud referee whistle

CLUE 1 Rounding

The stadium scoreboard is glitching, but we can round the fan attendance estimate to get a hint about the suspect's gear.

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

T								T						
3000	70	2000	90	200	4000	900	3000	70	6000	90	80	4000		

														T				
8000	5000	4000	60	30	80	8000	8000	4000	5000	9000	2000	80	200	5000	2000	6000	3000	90

Round 3,269 to the nearest thousand → **T**

Round 180 to the nearest hundred → **C**

Round 83 to the nearest ten → **N**

Round 66 to the nearest ten → **H**

Round 894 to the nearest hundred → **U**

Round 6,254 to the nearest thousand → **A**

Round 88 to the nearest ten → **S**

Round 27 to the nearest ten → **I**

Round 5,436 to the nearest thousand → **L**

Round 1,595 to the nearest thousand → **E**

Round 60 to the nearest ten → **W**

Round 8,733 to the nearest thousand → **D**

Round 7,582 to the nearest thousand → **G**

Round 4,180 to the nearest thousand → **O**

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Addition

Let's add up all the extra training cones left on the practice field to find out which foot the villain used to kick.

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

T						T				T					T	
279	271	760	461	760	257	279	257	879	879	279	310	728	391	270	279	506
										T						
506	271	879	342	642	461	760	257	279	450	888	391	731	888			

$113 + 166 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$266 + 462 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$

$304 + 146 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{Y}}$

$147 + 123 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$459 + 301 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$211 + 99 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{P}}$

$512 + 367 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

$145 + 246 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$152 + 105 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$

$179 + 92 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$193 + 313 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$138 + 204 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$

$452 + 279 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$184 + 277 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{L}}$

$568 + 320 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{K}}$

$235 + 407 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Subtraction

If we subtract the punctured soccer balls from the team supply pile, we can reveal what hair clue was dropped near the net.

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

D																D
364	631	113	347	557	643	452	652	795	809	887	418	486	502	452	486	364
795	113	685	486	113	685	452	210	486	452	648	631	133				

$640 - 276 = \square \rightarrow$ D	$707 - 289 = \square \rightarrow$ M	$860 - 358 = \square \rightarrow$ L
$214 - 81 = \square \rightarrow$ F	$857 - 371 = \square \rightarrow$ E	$856 - 171 = \square \rightarrow$ N
$897 - 88 = \square \rightarrow$ K	$265 - 55 = \square \rightarrow$ H	$783 - 152 = \square \rightarrow$ R
$799 - 147 = \square \rightarrow$ I	$252 - 139 = \square \rightarrow$ O	$739 - 91 = \square \rightarrow$ U
$995 - 200 = \square \rightarrow$ C	$776 - 219 = \square \rightarrow$ A	$987 - 344 = \square \rightarrow$ S
$383 - 36 = \square \rightarrow$ P	$924 - 37 = \square \rightarrow$ Y	$652 - 200 = \square \rightarrow$ T

Scratch space:

CLUE 4
Multiplication facts (1-12)

Multiply the rows of championship trophies by the display shelves to find out how to stop the thief in their tracks.

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

T															
63	8	100	108	32	100	30	100	8	16	132	16	45	99	56	100

						T								
45	5	16	42	132	108	63	5	16	33	33	42	100	32	100

$7 \times 9 = \square \rightarrow$ T	$8 \times 1 = \square \rightarrow$ H	$4 \times 8 = \square \rightarrow$ C	$6 \times 7 = \square \rightarrow$ I
$12 \times 9 = \square \rightarrow$ S	$11 \times 3 = \square \rightarrow$ P	$10 \times 10 = \square \rightarrow$ E	
$8 \times 7 = \square \rightarrow$ U	$5 \times 1 = \square \rightarrow$ R	$5 \times 9 = \square \rightarrow$ B	$10 \times 3 = \square \rightarrow$ N
$11 \times 12 = \square \rightarrow$ D	$8 \times 2 = \square \rightarrow$ A	$11 \times 9 = \square \rightarrow$ L	

Scratch space:

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

Share the orange slices equally among the junior squad to discover the final piece of evidence.

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:

$2 \div 1 = \boxed{}$

$48 \div 6 = \boxed{}$

$50 \div 10 = \boxed{}$

$18 \div 3 = \boxed{}$

$6 \div 2 = \boxed{}$

$8 \div 8 = \boxed{}$

$132 \div 12 = \boxed{}$

$132 \div 11 = \boxed{}$

$12 \div 3 = \boxed{}$

$90 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$14 \div 2 = \boxed{}$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain unleashes a rocket volley shot at the goal, then calculates the exit with a laser target visor.
2. The villain disappears with a phantom shadow slide, then grabs the loot with magical goalkeeper gloves.
3. The villain leaps for a gravity defying header, then escapes using a bouncing super ball.
4. The villain unleashes a rocket volley shot at the goal, then escapes using a bouncing super ball.
5. The villain leaps for a gravity defying header, then snaps up the prize with magnetic shin guards.
6. The villain performs a super speed dribble past the defense, then escapes using a bouncing super ball.
7. The villain leaps for a gravity defying header, then calculates the exit with a laser target visor.
8. The villain performs a super speed dribble past the defense, then calculates the exit with a laser target visor.
9. The villain disappears with a phantom shadow slide, then escapes using a bouncing super ball.
10. The villain unleashes a rocket volley shot at the goal, then snaps up the prize with magnetic shin guards.
11. The villain distracts the crowd with a hypnotic ball juggle, then grabs the loot with magical goalkeeper gloves.
12. The villain leaps for a gravity defying header, then escapes with glowing golden cleats.

Answer Key

The Golden Goal Mystery

Culprit: Neymar

phantom shadow slide · bouncing super ball · kicks left footed · braided blue ponytail · sticky melted ice cream

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 18 → Clue 2 10 → Clue 3 7 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Rounding): "THE SCOUT HAS NO GLOWING GOLDEN CLEATS"

Round 3,269 to the nearest thousand = 3000 (T) · Round 180 to the nearest hundred = 200 (C) · Round 83 to the nearest ten = 80 (N) · Round 66 to the nearest ten = 70 (H) · Round 894 to the nearest hundred = 900 (U) · Round 6,254 to the nearest thousand = 6000 (A) · Round 88 to the nearest ten = 90 (S) · Round 27 to the nearest ten = 30 (I) · Round 5,436 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (L) · Round 1,595 to the nearest thousand = 2000 (E) · Round 60 to the nearest ten = 60 (W) · Round 8,733 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (D) · Round 7,582 to the nearest thousand = 8000 (G) · Round 4,180 to the nearest thousand = 4000 (O)

Clue 2 (Addition): "THE LEFT FOOT PRINTS SHOW A LEFTY KICK"

$113 + 166 = 279$ (T) · $266 + 462 = 728$ (R) · $304 + 146 = 450$ (Y) · $147 + 123 = 270$ (N) · $459 + 301 = 760$ (E) · $211 + 99 = 310$ (P) · $512 + 367 = 879$ (O) · $145 + 246 = 391$ (I) · $152 + 105 = 257$ (F) · $179 + 92 = 271$ (H) · $193 + 313 = 506$ (S) · $138 + 204 = 342$ (W) · $452 + 279 = 731$ (C) · $184 + 277 = 461$ (L) · $568 + 320 = 888$ (K) · $235 + 407 = 642$ (A)

Clue 3 (Subtraction): "DROP A STICKY MELTED CONE ON THE TURF"

$640 - 276 = 364$ (D) · $707 - 289 = 418$ (M) · $860 - 358 = 502$ (L) · $214 - 81 = 133$ (F) · $857 - 371 = 486$ (E) · $856 - 171 = 685$ (N) · $897 - 88 = 809$ (K) · $265 - 55 = 210$ (H) · $783 - 152 = 631$ (R) · $799 - 147 = 652$ (I) · $252 - 139 = 113$ (O) · $739 - 91 = 648$ (U) · $995 - 200 = 795$ (C) · $776 - 219 = 557$ (A) · $987 - 344 = 643$ (S) · $383 - 36 = 347$ (P) · $924 - 37 = 887$ (Y) · $652 - 200 = 452$ (T)

Clue 4 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "THE SCENE HAD A BLUE BRAID STRAP PIECE"

$7 \times 9 = 63$ (T) · $8 \times 1 = 8$ (H) · $4 \times 8 = 32$ (C) · $6 \times 7 = 42$ (I) · $12 \times 9 = 108$ (S) · $11 \times 3 = 33$ (P) · $10 \times 10 = 100$ (E) · $8 \times 7 = 56$ (U) · $5 \times 1 = 5$ (R) · $5 \times 9 = 45$ (B) · $10 \times 3 = 30$ (N) · $11 \times 12 = 132$ (D) · $8 \times 2 = 16$ (A) · $11 \times 9 = 99$ (L)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 9 → Neymar

$2 \div 1 = 2$ · $48 \div 6 = 8$ · $50 \div 10 = 5$ · $18 \div 3 = 6$ · $6 \div 2 = 3$ · $8 \div 8 = 1$ · $132 \div 12 = 11$ · $132 \div 11 = 12$ · $12 \div 3 = 4$ · $90 \div 9 = 10$ · $14 \div 2 = 7$