



The Mystery of the Autumn Harvest Bandit

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

The annual Autumn Harvest Festival is in trouble! Someone stole the Golden Pumpkin Trophy right before the big contest. Leaves are scattered everywhere, and a mysterious draft of cool wind blows through the festival grounds. Work together to track down the sneaky bandit!

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 Leaf Bandit is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	HARVEST TRICK	ESCAPE ROUTE	DOMINANT HAND	HAIR STYLE	FOIL
Hunter	cider splashing	scarf tangling	left handed	orange braids	warm pie scent
Ash	mist summoning	scarf tangling	left handed	orange braids	bright flashlight
Rusty	mist summoning	crow summoning	right handed	orange braids	rake sweep
Russell	acorn throwing	scarf tangling	left handed	orange braids	warm pie scent
Ginger	leaf swirling	apple grabbing	left handed	orange braids	rake sweep
Barnaby	pumpkin rolling	apple grabbing	right handed	golden curls	bright flashlight
Goldie	pumpkin rolling	wood carving	left handed	orange braids	warm pie scent
Amber	pumpkin rolling	wood carving	left handed	golden curls	bright flashlight
Willow	acorn throwing	apple grabbing	left handed	orange braids	rake sweep
Crisp	acorn throwing	apple grabbing	left handed	orange braids	warm pie scent
Penny	pumpkin rolling	crow summoning	right handed	brown locks	bright flashlight
Silas	leaf swirling	maze hiding	left handed	orange braids	warm pie scent
Cider	mist summoning	wood carving	right handed	brown locks	bright flashlight
Hazel	leaf swirling	scarf tangling	right handed	orange braids	warm pie scent
Gale	mist summoning	crow summoning	left handed	brown locks	rake sweep
Autumn	mist summoning	wood carving	left handed	golden curls	bright flashlight
Aspen	pumpkin rolling	scarf tangling	left handed	golden curls	warm pie scent
Jack	leaf swirling	crow summoning	left handed	brown locks	warm pie scent
Rowan	mist summoning	apple grabbing	right handed	brown locks	bright flashlight
Woody	pumpkin rolling	crow summoning	left handed	brown locks	bright flashlight
Maple	mist summoning	apple grabbing	left handed	orange braids	bright flashlight

CLUE 1 Subtraction

The Orchard Keeper counted forty-five champion gourds this morning. Now there are only twenty-eight left! Subtraction shows how many the Leaf Bandit swiped.

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

T									T										
123	702	829	257	594	574	815	737	123	815	401	829	851	574	401	123	815	401		

505	401	401	815	347	594	299	278	737	574	808	

$230 - 107 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$	$514 - 113 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$	$842 - 13 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$
$555 - 298 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$	$872 - 135 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$	$762 - 60 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$
$564 - 265 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$	$922 - 114 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{G}}$	$845 - 30 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$
$958 - 107 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$	$613 - 266 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$	$782 - 277 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$
$910 - 336 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$	$864 - 270 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$	$282 - 4 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{V}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Place value

The festival scoreboard has three digits. If you look at the tens place and the hundreds place, the numbers tell us exactly where the suspect dropped their map.

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

T 3000 6000 5000	T 3000 6000 7000 5000 60	6000 5000 4000 400	T 3000 6000 5000
2000 7000 400 5000 8000	T 70 7000 3000 6000	T 3000 6000 5000	T 4000 5000 60 3000
6000 600 300 400			

What is the value of the 3 in 3,759? → **T**

What is the value of the 6 in 7,684? → **A**

What is the value of the 8 in 38,792? → **R**

What is the value of the 7 in 57,498? → **I**

What is the value of the 3 in 398? → **N**

What is the value of the 6 in 2,868? → **F**

What is the value of the 6 in 56,750? → **H**

What is the value of the 4 in 401? → **D**

What is the value of the 2 in 32,643? → **C**

What is the value of the 4 in 4,027? → **L**

What is the value of the 7 in 9,076? → **W**

What is the value of the 5 in 5,804? → **E**

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Word problems

We need to solve some quick riddles about baking pumpkin pies to figure out which path the runner took into the woods.

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

Someone scared the villain off with W S C N T .

33 35 26 77 32 71 9 9

Squirrel lined up 11 rows of 3 scarves. How many scarves in all?

Answer: → W

There were 29 scarves. 3 were used up. How many scarves are left?

Answer: → R

Squirrel found 36 acorns yesterday and 35 more today. How many acorns in all?

Answer: → I

Squirrel lined up 7 rows of 5 acorns. How many acorns in all?

Answer: → A

Squirrel found 6 pumpkins yesterday and 3 more today. How many pumpkins in all?

Answer: → E

Squirrel lined up 8 rows of 4 acorns. How many acorns in all?

Answer: → P

Squirrel lined up 7 rows of 11 apples. How many apples in all?

Answer: → M

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Addition

Let's tally up all the fallen pinecones and colorful oak leaves found near the crime scene. Adding them together gives us the code to the suspect locker.

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

W																		
463	732	524	876	556	856	333	876	384	691	856	587	732	584	384	691	757	333	743
757	856	448	957	732	726	732	691	524	808	757	726	732						

$225 + 238 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{W}$	$102 + 231 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{D}$	$507 + 225 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$
$386 + 357 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{S}$	$350 + 376 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{L}$	$515 + 293 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{P}$
$168 + 388 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{U}$	$257 + 191 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$	$555 + 402 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{H}$
$462 + 394 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$	$609 + 267 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{O}$	$353 + 171 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$
$363 + 328 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{A}$	$313 + 271 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$	$181 + 203 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$
$299 + 288 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{G}$	$270 + 487 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{I}$	

Scratch space:

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

We have twenty-four apple cider donuts to share equally among our search party of eight. Divvy them up to keep everyone energized for the final chase!

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:

$60 \div 6 = \boxed{}$

$36 \div 4 = \boxed{}$

$72 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$72 \div 6 = \boxed{}$

$6 \div 6 = \boxed{}$

$24 \div 6 = \boxed{}$

$45 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$42 \div 6 = \boxed{}$

$60 \div 10 = \boxed{}$

$6 \div 2 = \boxed{}$

$99 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain splashed sweet apple cider everywhere, then grabbed all the red apples.
2. The villain swirled a giant pile of orange leaves, then hid deep inside the corn maze.
3. The villain summoned a thick autumn mist, then carved scary faces on the trees.
4. The villain rolled a massive pumpkin down the hill, then tangled up the wool scarves.
5. The villain swirled a giant pile of orange leaves, then carved scary faces on the trees.
6. The villain threw a shower of shiny acorns, then summoned a flock of noisy crows.
7. The villain splashed sweet apple cider everywhere, then summoned a flock of noisy crows.
8. The villain threw a shower of shiny acorns, then grabbed all the red apples.
9. The villain threw a shower of shiny acorns, then tangled up the wool scarves.
10. The villain splashed sweet apple cider everywhere, then tangled up the wool scarves.
11. The villain summoned a thick autumn mist, then tangled up the wool scarves.
12. The villain threw a shower of shiny acorns, then hid deep inside the corn maze.

Answer Key

The Mystery of the Autumn Harvest Bandit

Culprit: Silas

leaf swirling · maze hiding · left handed · orange braids · warm pie scent

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 17 → Clue 2 12 → Clue 3 6 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Subtraction): "THE BANDIT DOES NOT DO WOOD CARVING"

$230 - 107 = 123$ (T) · $514 - 113 = 401$ (O) · $842 - 13 = 829$ (E) · $555 - 298 = 257$ (B) · $872 - 135 = 737$ (I) · $762 - 60 = 702$ (H) · $564 - 265 = 299$ (R) · $922 - 114 = 808$ (G) · $845 - 30 = 815$ (D) · $958 - 107 = 851$ (S) · $613 - 266 = 347$ (C) · $782 - 277 = 505$ (W) · $910 - 336 = 574$ (N) · $864 - 270 = 594$ (A) · $282 - 4 = 278$ (V)

Clue 2 (Place value): "THE THIEF HELD THE CIDER WITH THE LEFT HAND"

What is the value of the 3 in 3,759? = 3000 (T) · What is the value of the 6 in 7,684? = 600 (A) · What is the value of the 8 in 38,792? = 8000 (R) · What is the value of the 7 in 57,498? = 7000 (I) · What is the value of the 3 in 398? = 300 (N) · What is the value of the 6 in 2,868? = 60 (F) · What is the value of the 6 in 56,750? = 6000 (H) · What is the value of the 4 in 401? = 400 (D) · What is the value of the 2 in 32,643? = 2000 (C) · What is the value of the 4 in 4,027? = 4000 (L) · What is the value of the 7 in 9,076? = 70 (W) · What is the value of the 5 in 5,804? = 5000 (E)

Clue 3 (Word problems): "WARM PIE SCENT"

Squirrel lined up 11 rows of 3 scarves. How many scarves in all? = 33 (W) · There were 29 scarves. 3 were used up. How many scarves are left? = 26 (R) · Squirrel found 36 acorns yesterday and 35 more today. How many acorns in all? = 71 (I) · Squirrel lined up 7 rows of 5 acorns. How many acorns in all? = 35 (A) · Squirrel found 6 pumpkins yesterday and 3 more today. How many pumpkins in all? = 9 (E) · Squirrel lined up 8 rows of 4 acorns. How many acorns in all? = 32 (P) · Squirrel lined up 7 rows of 11 apples. How many apples in all? = 77 (M)

Clue 4 (Addition): "WE FOUND ORANGE BRAIDS IN THE LEAF PILE"

$225 + 238 = 463$ (W) · $102 + 231 = 333$ (D) · $507 + 225 = 732$ (E) · $386 + 357 = 743$ (S) · $350 + 376 = 726$ (L) · $515 + 293 = 808$ (P) · $168 + 388 = 556$ (U) · $257 + 191 = 448$ (T) · $555 + 402 = 957$ (H) · $462 + 394 = 856$ (N) · $609 + 267 = 876$ (O) · $353 + 171 = 524$ (F) · $363 + 328 = 691$ (A) · $313 + 271 = 584$ (B) · $181 + 203 = 384$ (R) · $299 + 288 = 587$ (G) · $270 + 487 = 757$ (I)

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

$60 \div 6 = 10$ · $36 \div 4 = 9$ · $72 \div 9 = 8$ · $72 \div 6 = 12$ · $6 \div 6 = 1$ · $24 \div 6 = 4$ · $45 \div 9 = 5$ · $42 \div 6 = 7$ · $60 \div 10 = 6$ · $6 \div 2 = 3$ · $99 \div 9 = 11$