



The Mystery of the Lost Golden Anchor

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

The legendary Golden Anchor has been stolen from the flagship dock! Quartermaster Barnaby was locked in the brig while the thief ran off with the heavy treasure. We must search the sandy beaches and pirate ships to track down the sneaky crew member who 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 pirate thief is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	SHIP SKILL	CARRIED ITEM	WRITING HAND	PIRATE HAT	GREATEST FEAR
Henry Morgan	spots a far island from the mast	a wooden compass	writes with left hand	a red bandana	gets seasick easily
Siren Sarah	steers the heavy pirate ship	a pet parrot	writes with left hand	a red bandana	scared of sharks
Scurvy Dan	fires the giant brass cannon	a golden spyglass	writes with left hand	a black captain hat	gets seasick easily
Captain Kidd	fires the giant brass cannon	a silver cutlass	writes with right hand	a red bandana	gets seasick easily
Salty Sam	swings on the long rigging ropes	a silver cutlass	writes with left hand	a black captain hat	allergic to sea salt
Redbeard	steers the heavy pirate ship	a pet parrot	writes with left hand	a black captain hat	allergic to sea salt
Captain Flint	steers the heavy pirate ship	a pet parrot	writes with left hand	a red bandana	allergic to sea salt
Stede Bonnet	steers the heavy pirate ship	a heavy iron key	writes with left hand	a blue tricorn	allergic to sea salt
Billy Bones	fires the giant brass cannon	a heavy iron key	writes with left hand	a red bandana	allergic to sea salt
Boatswain Bob	fires the giant brass cannon	a golden spyglass	writes with left hand	a black captain hat	allergic to sea salt
Patchy Pete	swings on the long rigging ropes	a heavy iron key	writes with right hand	a red bandana	allergic to sea salt
Barnaby Blue	spots a far island from the mast	a heavy iron key	writes with left hand	a red bandana	allergic to sea salt
Edward Low	spots a far island from the mast	a silver cutlass	writes with left hand	a red bandana	gets seasick easily
Charles Vane	decodes the ancient sea map	a wooden compass	writes with left hand	a red bandana	allergic to sea salt
Grace OMalley	decodes the ancient sea map	a pet parrot	writes with left hand	a red bandana	allergic to sea salt
Calico Jack	swings on the long rigging ropes	a wooden compass	writes with right hand	a red bandana	gets seasick easily
Blackbeard	fires the giant brass cannon	a pet parrot	writes with right hand	a red bandana	allergic to sea salt
Mary Read	swings on the long rigging ropes	a wooden compass	writes with left hand	a blue tricorn	scared of sharks
Marina May	swings on the long rigging ropes	a golden spyglass	writes with left hand	a black captain hat	gets seasick easily
Captain Hook	decodes the ancient sea map	a golden spyglass	writes with left hand	a black captain hat	gets seasick easily
Pegleg Pete	decodes the ancient sea map	a heavy iron key	writes with right hand	a red bandana	allergic to sea salt

CLUE 1 Addition

To get the first clue, we need to add up all the shiny gold coins found in the pirate chests.

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

T																	T
985	511	979	757	628	664	664	558	628	381	239	519	979	258	381	519	985	
511	558	757	979	558	362	519	519	239	979	381	316	519	320	438	558	258	258

$661 + 324 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$341 + 170 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$149 + 90 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$189 + 173 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$

$413 + 251 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{L}}$

$144 + 237 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$460 + 297 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{V}}$

$225 + 294 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

$78 + 180 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$209 + 107 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$308 + 320 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$180 + 140 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{M}}$

$335 + 223 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$160 + 278 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{P}}$

$439 + 540 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 2

Subtraction

To find the next clue, we must take away the rotten wooden planks that fell off the ship deck.

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

892 749 440 403 584 580 584 892 661 794 756 794 661 892 440 756 584 892 749

892 749 440 556 440 777 892 749 472 761 235

$926 - 34 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$723 - 143 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$939 - 145 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$

$821 - 265 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{L}}$

$1070 - 321 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

909 - 148 = → **N**

$$694 - 33 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{0}$$

$1043 - 287 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$

$852 - 75 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$

$700 - 297 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{V}}$

$$947 - 363 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{1}$$

$608 - 136 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{A}}$

$745 - 305 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$$483 - 248 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Rounding

We found a blurry map with fuzzy numbers. Round the distance to the nearest ten to see where to dig next.

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

T			T					T												
3000	6000	90	3000	700	800	200	90	3000	80	300	90	90	600	90	5000	40	800	70	8000	

T						T				
3000	6000	90	80	700	7000	3000	9000	700	4000	800

Round 3,130 to the nearest thousand → **T**

Round 92 to the nearest ten → **E**

Round 8,607 to the nearest thousand → **Y**

Round 186 to the nearest hundred → **G**

Round 827 to the nearest hundred → **R**

Round 270 to the nearest hundred → **N**

Round 668 to the nearest hundred → **A**

Round 72 to the nearest ten → **O**

Round 5,930 to the nearest thousand → **H**

Round 622 to the nearest hundred → **Z**

Round 40 to the nearest ten → **F**

Round 6,772 to the nearest thousand → **L**

Round 4,595 to the nearest thousand → **D**

Round 4,274 to the nearest thousand → **I**

Round 8,046 to the nearest thousand → **M**

Round 82 to the nearest ten → **S**

Scratch space:

Multiplication facts (1-12)

The pirate crew stacked their barrels in equal rows. Let us multiply the rows to find the hidden code.

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

Diagram showing two rows of boxes with numbers and red 'R' markers.

Top row: 3, 90, 4, 14, 22, 20, 42, 44, 42, 44, 3, 90, 80, 4, 25, 15, 90, 3, 90. (Red 'R' markers are placed above the 11th and 18th boxes.)

Bottom row: 22, 90, 21, 42, 20, 55, 42, 44, 90, 44, 20, 20, 70.

$3 \times 1 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{R}}$

$4 \times 1 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$10 \times 8 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$7 \times 2 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$5 \times 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{W}$

$10 \times 9 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$5 \times 5 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{S}$

$11 \times 2 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{L}}$

$$5 \times 11 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{N}}$$

$6 \times 7 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$11 \times 4 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$$10 \times 7 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{K}}$$

$$10 \times 2 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$$

$3 \times 7 = \square \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$

Scratch space:

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

The pirates need to share their coconuts equally among the crew. Divide the food to unlock the final box.

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:

$11 \div 1 = \boxed{}$

$6 \div 1 = \boxed{}$

$70 \div 10 = \boxed{}$

$5 \div 1 = \boxed{}$

$22 \div 11 = \boxed{}$

$36 \div 3 = \boxed{}$

$20 \div 2 = \boxed{}$

$54 \div 6 = \boxed{}$

$3 \div 3 = \boxed{}$

$12 \div 3 = \boxed{}$

$33 \div 11 = \boxed{}$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain decodes the ancient sea map, then polishes a silver cutlass.
2. The villain steers the heavy pirate ship, then peers through a golden spyglass.
3. The villain spots a far island from the mast, then peers through a golden spyglass.
4. The villain swings on the long rigging ropes, then turns a heavy iron key.
5. The villain spots a far island from the mast, then polishes a silver cutlass.
6. The villain fires the giant brass cannon, then turns a heavy iron key.
7. The villain decodes the ancient sea map, then feeds a colorful pet parrot.
8. The villain steers the heavy pirate ship, then feeds a colorful pet parrot.
9. The villain steers the heavy pirate ship, then turns a heavy iron key.
10. The villain decodes the ancient sea map, then turns a heavy iron key.
11. The villain spots a far island from the mast, then turns a heavy iron key.
12. The villain decodes the ancient sea map, then peers through a golden spyglass.

Answer Key

The Mystery of the Lost Golden Anchor

Culprit: Captain Flint

steers the heavy pirate ship · a pet parrot · writes with left hand · a red bandana · allergic to sea salt

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 17 → Clue 2 13 → Clue 3 8 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Addition): "THE VILLAIN DOES NOT HAVE A WOODEN COMPASS"

$661 + 324 = 985$ (T) · $341 + 170 = 511$ (H) · $149 + 90 = 239$ (D) · $189 + 173 = 362$ (W) · $413 + 251 = 664$ (L) · $144 + 237 = 381$ (N) · $460 + 297 = 757$ (V) · $225 + 294 = 519$ (O) · $78 + 180 = 258$ (S) · $209 + 107 = 316$ (C) · $308 + 320 = 628$ (I) · $180 + 140 = 320$ (M) · $335 + 223 = 558$ (A) · $160 + 278 = 438$ (P) · $439 + 540 = 979$ (E)

Clue 2 (Subtraction): "THE VISITOR WROTE WITH THE LEFT HAND"

$926 - 34 = 892$ (T) · $723 - 143 = 580$ (S) · $939 - 145 = 794$ (R) · $821 - 265 = 556$ (L) · $1070 - 321 = 749$ (H) · $909 - 148 = 761$ (N) · $694 - 33 = 661$ (O) · $1043 - 287 = 756$ (W) · $852 - 75 = 777$ (F) · $700 - 297 = 403$ (V) · $947 - 363 = 584$ (I) · $608 - 136 = 472$ (A) · $745 - 305 = 440$ (E) · $483 - 248 = 235$ (D)

Clue 3 (Rounding): "THE TARGET SNEEZED FROM THE SALTY AIR"

Round 3,130 to the nearest thousand = 3000 (T) · Round 92 to the nearest ten = 90 (E) · Round 8,607 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (Y) · Round 186 to the nearest hundred = 200 (G) · Round 827 to the nearest hundred = 800 (R) · Round 270 to the nearest hundred = 300 (N) · Round 668 to the nearest hundred = 700 (A) · Round 72 to the nearest ten = 70 (O) · Round 5,930 to the nearest thousand = 6000 (H) · Round 622 to the nearest hundred = 600 (Z) · Round 40 to the nearest ten = 40 (F) · Round 6,772 to the nearest thousand = 7000 (L) · Round 4,595 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (D) · Round 4,274 to the nearest thousand = 4000 (I) · Round 8,046 to the nearest thousand = 8000 (M) · Round 82 to the nearest ten = 80 (S)

Clue 4 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "RED CLOTH THREADS WERE LEFT ON THE HOOK"

$3 \times 1 = 3$ (R) · $4 \times 1 = 4$ (D) · $10 \times 8 = 80$ (A) · $7 \times 2 = 14$ (C) · $5 \times 3 = 15$ (W) · $10 \times 9 = 90$ (E) · $5 \times 5 = 25$ (S) · $11 \times 2 = 22$ (L) · $5 \times 11 = 55$ (N) · $6 \times 7 = 42$ (T) · $11 \times 4 = 44$ (H) · $10 \times 7 = 70$ (K) · $10 \times 2 = 20$ (O) · $3 \times 7 = 21$ (F)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 8 → Captain Flint

$11 \div 1 = 11$ · $6 \div 1 = 6$ · $70 \div 10 = 7$ · $5 \div 1 = 5$ · $22 \div 11 = 2$ · $36 \div 3 = 12$ · $20 \div 2 = 10$ · $54 \div 6 = 9$ · $3 \div 3 = 1$ · $12 \div 3 = 4$ · $33 \div 11 = 3$