Grade 1

Your first case starts here.

The Missing Marble Bust

A complete mystery to print, solve and enjoy.

By Roberta Spring

1. Read the case briefing and meet the suspects.

2. Work through all five clues. Cross suspects off as the evidence rules them out.

3. Complete your case report, then check the worked answers.

You will need: a pencil, an eraser and some paper for working out. An adult can help with reading the instructions.

This sample is one complete case from the supplied Grade 1 book. The bonus letter for the full-book final mystery is optional; you do not need it to solve this case.

Print at actual size (100%) on US Letter paper. On A4, choose Fit. Print only the case pages if you want to save paper; the answers begin after the STOP page.

Explore the Grade 1 books at BrainBoxBooks.shop

CASE #01 · MUSEUM MYSTERY

THE MISSING MARBLE BUST

How surprising! Today began with a very puzzling surprise! The marble hero bust went missing from the history gallery on an otherwise ordinary day. A yellow yarn loop dangled from a low hook. Complete the number trail, cross off the suspects, and uncover who borrowed it!

MISSING: MARBLE HERO BUST

LAST SEEN: HISTORY GALLERY

DIFFICULTY	MISSION TIME	MATH SKILLS
★★☆☆	~30 min	5

THE SUSPECTS



SUSPECT 1
JASPER · the Artist
Hair: BLACK · Hat: A TOP HAT



SUSPECT 2
FELIX · the Photographer
Hair: CURLY · Hat: A TOP HAT



SUSPECT 3
MILO · the Ticket taker
Hair: BLOND · Hat: A TOP HAT



SUSPECT 4
DOT · the Map seller
Hair: GRAY · Hat: A TOP HAT



SUSPECT 5
POPPY · the Sculptor
Hair: GRAY · Hat: A TOP HAT



SUSPECT 6
LOLA · the Professor
Hair: RED · Hat: A TOP HAT



SUSPECT 7
ETTA · the Cleaner
Hair: SPIKY · Hat: A TOP HAT



SUSPECT 8
MAISIE · the Night guard
Hair: SPIKY · Hat: A CROWN

YOUR CLUES

CLUE 1 · NUMBER PROPERTIES | CLUE 2 · MAPS & DIRECTIONS | CLUE 3 · WORD PROBLEMS | CLUE 4 · ELAPSED TIME | CLUE 5 · SUBTRACTION

Solve each clue sheet and cross suspects off. The last name standing is your culprit!

CASE #01 · MUSEUM MYSTERY

CLUE 1 OF 5

NUMBER PROPERTIES

SPOT THE VACANT BOOKSHELF

Sort the theatre props and let the empty region name the hat, then cross off every suspect who has the wrong hat.

SOLVE EACH SAMPLE

Sample 1: 2 + 2 = ☐

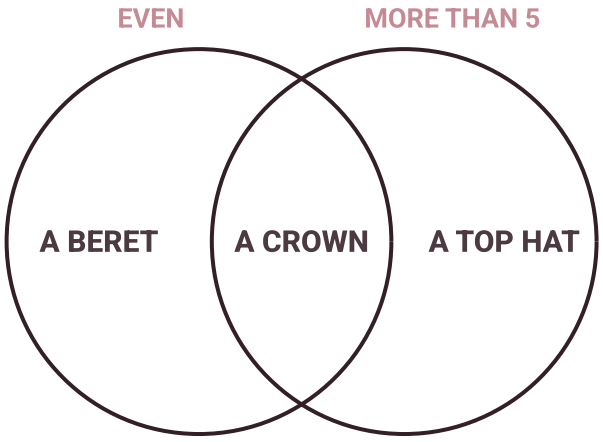
Sample 2: 14 − 4 = ☐

Sample 3: 1 + 2 = ☐

Circle A: EVEN

Circle B: MORE THAN 5

SORT INTO THE VENN



A HELMET

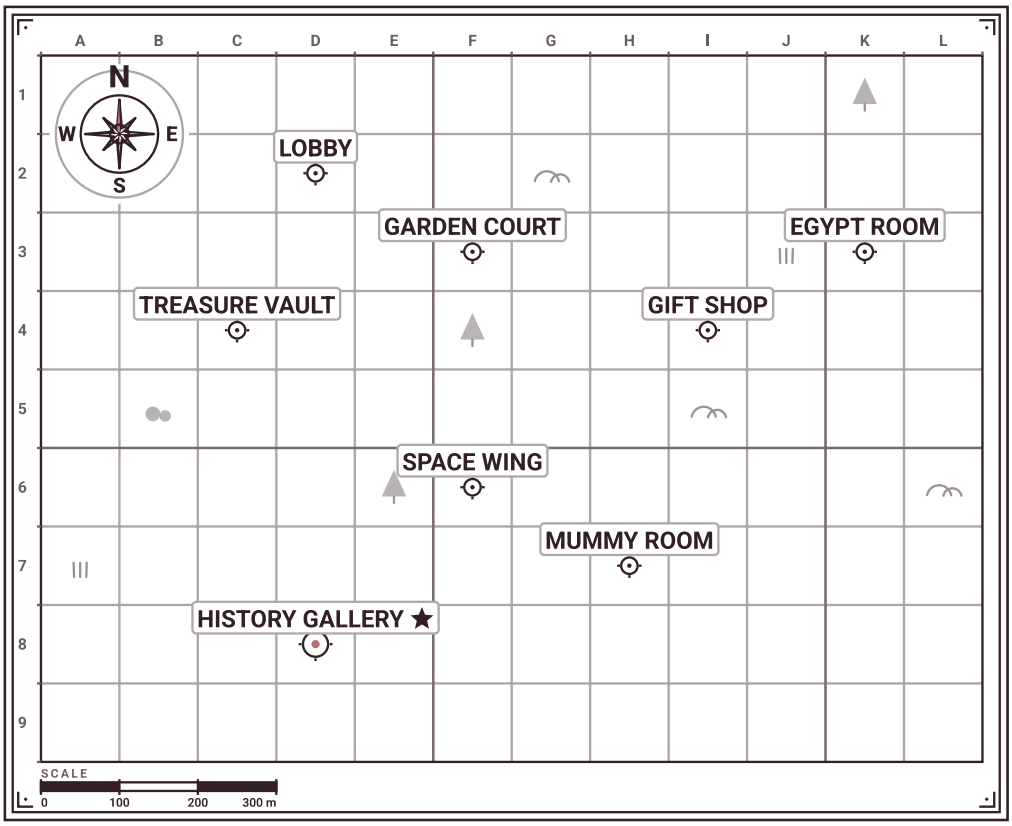
Sort each sample into its region, find the one left empty, then cross off every suspect with a different hat!

CLUE 2 OF 5

MAPS & DIRECTIONS

FOLLOW THE BACKSTAGE PATH

Track the library trail until it ends at the culprit's hiding spot, then cross off every suspect found somewhere else.



THE TRAIL

Start at the HISTORY GALLERY ★

1. Go 1 + 1 squares WEST
2. Go 0 + 1 squares NORTH
3. Go 0 + 1 squares EAST
4. Go 0 + 1 squares NORTH
5. Go 1 + 2 squares NORTH
6. Go 0 + 1 squares SOUTH

WHO WAS SEEN WHERE?

JASPER	TREASURE VAULT
FELIX	TREASURE VAULT
MILO	TREASURE VAULT
DOT	TREASURE VAULT
POPPY	LOBBY
LOLA	TREASURE VAULT
ETTA	TREASURE VAULT
MAISIE	GARDEN COURT

Trace the trail on the map, find where it ends, and cross off everyone seen elsewhere!

CASE #01 · MUSEUM MYSTERY

CLUE 3 OF 5

WORD PROBLEMS

THE BACKSTAGE CHASE

The culprit made a long getaway! Cross off every suspect who covered FEWER than 15 steps.

HOW FAR DID EACH SUSPECT GO?

Jasper hopped 13 steps, then 7 more. Total: ___

Felix hopped 16 steps, then 1 more. Total: ___

Milo hopped 21 steps, then 1 more. Total: ___

Dot hopped 3 steps, then 3 more. Total: ___

Poppy hopped 13 steps, then 6 more. Total: ___

Lola hopped 3 steps, then 1 more. Total: ___

Etta hopped 14 steps, then 9 more. Total: ___

Maisie hopped 12 steps, then 4 more. Total: ___

Do the math, then cross off every suspect the rule catches!

CASE #01 · MUSEUM MYSTERY

CLUE 4 OF 5

ELAPSED TIME

TIME THE CURTAIN CALL

Cross off every suspect who finished BEFORE 1:00 PM.

WHEN DID EACH SUSPECT FINISH?

Jasper started a bike ride at 2:00 PM. It lasted 1 hour. Finish time: ___

Felix started a dance class at 3:00 PM. It lasted 2 hours. Finish time: ___

Milo started a dance class at 12:30 PM. It lasted 1 hour. Finish time: ___

Dot started a science club at 3:00 PM. It lasted 1 hour. Finish time: ___

Poppy started soccer practice at 2:30 PM. It lasted 2 hours. Finish time: ___

Lola started a swimming class at 1:30 PM. It lasted 1 hour. Finish time: ___

Etta started a bike ride at 8:30 AM. It lasted 2 hours. Finish time: ___

Maisie started a science club at 11:00 AM. It lasted 3 hours. Finish time: ___

Do the math, then cross off every suspect the rule catches!

CASE #01 · MUSEUM MYSTERY

CLUE 5 OF 5

SUBTRACTION

DECIPHER THE NUMBER NOTE

SOLVE THE PROBLEMS

P. 11 − 9 = _____

Y. 11 − 3 = _____

S. 13 − 1 = _____

U. 13 − 6 = _____

L. 9 − 6 = _____

H. 17 − 4 = _____

R. 6 − 5 = _____

E. 6 − 1 = _____

I. 13 − 3 = _____

T. 18 − 12 = _____

A. 19 − 15 = _____

C. 19 − 8 = _____

CRACK THE CODE

Write each problem's letter in every box that shows its answer.

Self-check: if the boxes spell a real clue sentence, your math is correct!

☐	☐	☐		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		☐	☐	☐
6	13	5		11	7	3	2	1	10	6		13	4	12

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		☐	☐	☐	☐
11	7	1	3	8		13	4	10	1

Now cross off every suspect this clue rules out!

CASE #01 · MUSEUM MYSTERY

CASE REPORT

The marble hero bust vanished from the history gallery. You worked the clues, detective — time to name the culprit.

FINAL CHECK

- [ ] JASPER · the Artist
- [ ] POPPY · the Sculptor
- [ ] FELIX · the Photographer
- [ ] LOLA · the Professor
- [ ] MILO · the Ticket taker
- [ ] ETTA · the Cleaner
- [ ] DOT · the Map seller
- [ ] MAISIE · the Night guard

THE CULPRIT IS: _____

SHOW YOUR REASONING

Which clue ruled out the most suspects? Clue ____

Name one suspect it cleared — and why the rule caught them:

- [ ] **My culprit is the ONLY suspect still standing after all 5 clues.**

SECRET LETTER for The Final Mystery → T

CASE CLOSED

STOP, DETECTIVE!

The worked answers begin on the next page.

Finish your case report before turning over. The following pages reveal the culprit and show the completed clues.

Parents and grandparents: keep these pages separate if your young detective would like to solve the case independently.

CLUE 1 OF 5

NUMBER PROPERTIES

SPOT THE VACANT BOOKSHELF

Sort the theatre props and let the empty region name the hat, then cross off every suspect who has the wrong hat.

SOLVE EACH SAMPLE

Sample 1: 2 + 2 = 4

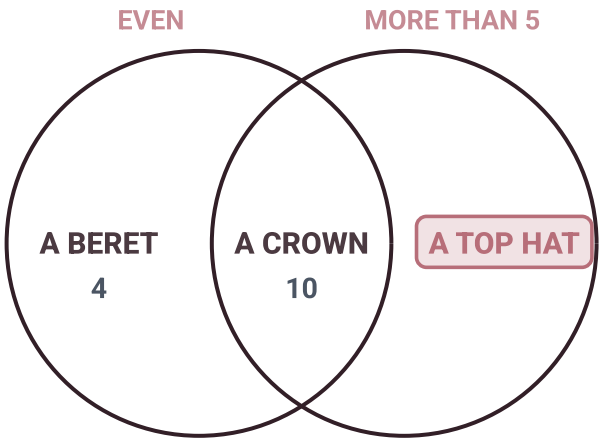
Sample 2: 14 − 4 = 10

Sample 3: 1 + 2 = 3

Circle A: EVEN

Circle B: MORE THAN 5

SORT INTO THE VENN



A HELMET
3

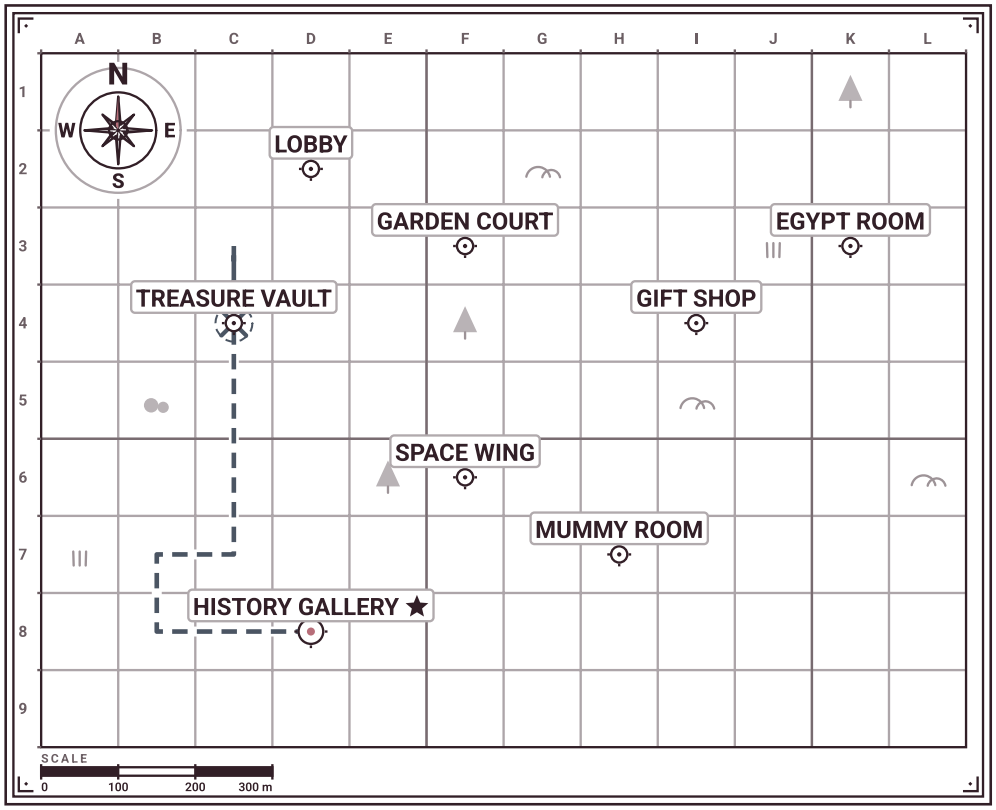
The empty region is A TOP HAT — rules out: MAISIE

CLUE 2 OF 5

MAPS & DIRECTIONS

FOLLOW THE BACKSTAGE PATH

Track the library trail until it ends at the culprit's hiding spot, then cross off every suspect found somewhere else.



THE TRAIL

Start at the HISTORY GALLERY ★

1. Go 1 + 1 squares WEST = 2
2. Go 0 + 1 squares NORTH = 1
3. Go 0 + 1 squares EAST = 1
4. Go 0 + 1 squares NORTH = 1
5. Go 1 + 2 squares NORTH = 3
6. Go 0 + 1 squares SOUTH = 1

WHO WAS SEEN WHERE?

JASPER	TREASURE VAULT
FELIX	TREASURE VAULT
MILO	TREASURE VAULT
DOT	TREASURE VAULT
~~**POPPY**~~	LOBBY
LOLA	TREASURE VAULT
ETTA	TREASURE VAULT
~~**MAISIE**~~	GARDEN COURT

The trail ends at the TREASURE VAULT — rules out: POPPY

CLUE 3 OF 5

WORD PROBLEMS

THE BACKSTAGE CHASE

The culprit made a long getaway! Cross off every suspect who covered FEWER than 15 steps.

HOW FAR DID EACH SUSPECT GO?

Jasper hopped 13 steps, then 7 more. Total: ___ **20 steps**

✓ *13 + 7 = 20 steps*

Felix hopped 16 steps, then 1 more. Total: ___ **17 steps**

✓ *16 + 1 = 17 steps*

Milo hopped 21 steps, then 1 more. Total: ___ **22 steps**

✓ *21 + 1 = 22 steps*

~~Dot hopped 3 steps, then 3 more. Total: ___~~ **6 steps**

✓ *3 + 3 = 6 steps*

Poppy hopped 13 steps, then 6 more. Total: ___ **19 steps**

✓ *13 + 6 = 19 steps*

~~Lola hopped 3 steps, then 1 more. Total: ___~~ **4 steps**

✓ *3 + 1 = 4 steps*

Etta hopped 14 steps, then 9 more. Total: ___ **23 steps**

✓ *14 + 9 = 23 steps*

Maisie hopped 12 steps, then 4 more. Total: ___ **16 steps**

✓ *12 + 4 = 16 steps*

Rules out: LOLA, DOT

CLUE 4 OF 5

ELAPSED TIME

TIME THE CURTAIN CALL

Cross off every suspect who finished BEFORE 1:00 PM.

WHEN DID EACH SUSPECT FINISH?

Jasper started a bike ride at 2:00 PM. It lasted 1 hour. Finish time: ___ **3:00 PM**

✓ *2:00 PM + 1 hour = 3:00 PM*

Felix started a dance class at 3:00 PM. It lasted 2 hours. Finish time: ___ **5:00 PM**

✓ *3:00 PM + 2 hours = 5:00 PM*

Milo started a dance class at 12:30 PM. It lasted 1 hour. Finish time: ___ **1:30 PM**

✓ *12:30 PM + 1 hour = 1:30 PM*

Dot started a science club at 3:00 PM. It lasted 1 hour. Finish time: ___ **4:00 PM**

✓ *3:00 PM + 1 hour = 4:00 PM*

Poppy started soccer practice at 2:30 PM. It lasted 2 hours. Finish time: ___ **4:30 PM**

✓ *2:30 PM + 2 hours = 4:30 PM*

Lola started a swimming class at 1:30 PM. It lasted 1 hour. Finish time: ___ **2:30 PM**

✓ *1:30 PM + 1 hour = 2:30 PM*

~~Etta started a bike ride at 8:30 AM. It lasted 2 hours. Finish time: ___~~ **10:30 AM**

✓ *8:30 AM + 2 hours = 10:30 AM*

Maisie started a science club at 11:00 AM. It lasted 3 hours. Finish time: ___ **2:00 PM**

✓ *11:00 AM + 3 hours = 2:00 PM*

Rules out: ETTA

CLUE 5 OF 5

SUBTRACTION

DECIPHER THE NUMBER NOTE

SOLVE THE PROBLEMS

P. 11 − 9 = 2

Y. 11 − 3 = 8

S. 13 − 1 = 12

U. 13 − 6 = 7

L. 9 − 6 = 3

H. 17 − 4 = 13

R. 6 − 5 = 1

E. 6 − 1 = 5

I. 13 − 3 = 10

T. 18 − 12 = 6

A. 19 − 15 = 4

C. 19 − 8 = 11

CRACK THE CODE

Write each problem's letter in every box that shows its answer.

Self-check: if the boxes spell a real clue sentence, your math is correct!

T	H	E		C	U	L	P	R	I	T		H	A	S
6	13	5		11	7	3	2	1	10	6		13	4	12

C	U	R	L	Y		H	A	I	R
11	7	1	3	8		13	4	10	1

Rules out: MILO, JASPER

CASE #01 · MUSEUM MYSTERY · SOLUTION

CASE REPORT

The marble hero bust vanished from the history gallery. You worked the clues, detective — time to name the culprit.

FINAL CHECK

- ☒ JASPER · the Artist
- ☑ **FELIX · the Photographer**
- ☒ MILO · the Ticket taker
- ☒ DOT · the Map seller
- ☒ POPPY · the Sculptor
- ☒ LOLA · the Professor
- ☒ ETTA · the Cleaner
- ☒ MAISIE · the Night guard

THE CULPRIT IS: FELIX

HOW IT WAS SOLVED

SOLVED!

Clue 1 cleared MAISIE. Clue 2 cleared POPPY. Clue 3 cleared LOLA & DOT. Clue 4 cleared ETTA. Clue 5 cleared MILO & JASPER. Only FELIX was left standing — that's the culprit!

SECRET LETTER for The Final Mystery → T

CASE CLOSED

Ready for another case?

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