

MATH MYSTERY



CASE OF THE

OUTBACK OUTLAW

GRADE

2

COMPARING & ORDERING NUMBERS



By Mrs J's Resource Creations ©

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Teacher Resource Instructions

PREPARATION

Print and copy pages 4-11 for your students. You can do either of the following:

- Combine the pages to form a booklet for each student to work on; OR
- Hand out worksheets as you want students to work on them – please note that if you choose this option, students will always need the 'Possible Suspects' page handy.
- If it is a difficult skill or something not yet done with your students, demonstration and a lesson before completing that clue is recommended.
- You could get students to work independently, or in pairs/groups.

IMPORTANT: The clues must be completed in the order I have arranged them in i.e. 1-5!

HOW TO USE

Read through the article on page 4 'Math Mystery: Case of The Outback Outlaw' to set up the activity and engage students.

Instruct students that they will need to keep referring back to their Possible Suspects list after solving each clue.

Students work through each clue, either guided by the teacher or independently (your choice). After completing a math worksheet, if students completed the questions correctly, a clue will be revealed. For example: 'The Outback Outlaw cannot fly.' So, in this example, students can conclude that all suspects who can fly should be crossed off the list.

Once students have correctly completed all of the clues, only one suspect will remain and that is the character is the Outback Outlaw! On page 11, the teacher ticks off the 'Well done . . . ' box and the student can receive an Award (provided on page 18) if they declare the correct answer to the mystery. If a student gets the wrong answer, tick the second box "Oops! Try again," and instruct the student to go over their work to see where they went wrong.

ANSWERS

I have provided answer sheets for all of the clues, as well as the answer to the whole mystery. You will find these on pages 12-17. This includes the elimination process of boxes post each clue.

AWARDS

On page 18 you will find awards that you can print and give to students who solve the case correctly. I suggest making it a rule that students complete all of the questions on each worksheet to be eligible for the award (even if they can guess what the clue is without finishing all of the math questions!). You could also make it a condition that students show their working out on the back of the page or on a separate piece of paper if applicable.

If you need help, have any questions, or notice an error in my work please email me on JJResourceCreations@gmail.com

Thanks! 😊

MATH MYSTERY:

CASE OF THE OUTBACK OUTLAW



Date: _____

Opals are special gemstones mainly found in Australia. The world's largest producing mining field of opals is the Coober Pedy, which lies in the desert outback of South Australia. Known for their unique beauty and changing color, opals are a stone used by craftsmen to make valuable and expensive trinkets. Due to the area's harsh climate conditions, many of the locals in Coober Pedy prefer to live underground (*the dugout*) to escape the heat!

Unfortunately, over the past week, trouble has struck the fields! Someone stole all of the mined opals! It also appears that the thief keeps sneaking back to mine out more opals when no one is around. No one has been able to catch this sneaky outlaw!

Upon hearing about this serious crime, our reporters went down to the mining site to find out more on this developing story. The local miners gave the following statements:

Manny, the miner, stated, "*Thousands of opals are missing! The thief slowly took some bit by bit, so we didn't notice it straight away. But, now all of the opals are gone!*"

Mila another miner commented, "*This Outback Outlaw could be one of the clever and cunning animals that roam around the site or possibly one of the notorious bushrangers with a reputation for crime.*"

Milo chimed in, "*Or it could even be one of our locals responsible for this crime! I don't think we should only look to the wildlife and bushrangers during this investigation.*"

The police need more information to help unravel this mystery. With all of the opals gone, the miners are going to struggle to buy food and water for everyone. So, they are all desperately requesting for the help of a detective to come and examine the Coober Pedy mine in Australia.

WITH A ZIP ZAP AND WHOOOOOOSH . . . All math detectives travel to the outback of Australia. Get ready to solve who the Outback Outlaw is!

Earthy tones, dry and rocky sites as far as the eye can see. The unique Australian outback covers an extremely large area in the middle of the country. Although it may initially look empty of any wildlife, it is home to a diverse set of animal species. The outlaw could be hiding anywhere out there, or possibly nearby amongst the locals in the dugout. Get ready to start examining!

The police made a list of possible suspects. Whether an animal, bushranger or a local, use your math skills to discover important clues and solve who stole all of the precious opals!

POSSIBLE SUSPECTS

Suspect Name	Motive	Hiding the opals in . . .	Used to steal opals.	Size	Special ability
Ted Nelly the Bushranger	To make money	The Outback	Sack	Large	Moves Fast
Maggie the Magpie	Likes shiny things	The Dugout	Pouch	Small	Flies
Pete the Platypus	Collects stones	The Outback	Pouch	Medium	Moves Fast
Cecile Smith the Cook	To make money	The Dugout	Pouch	Large	Strong
Stan Smogan The Bushranger	Likes shiny things	The Dugout	Cart	Medium	Strong
Kelly the Kangaroo	Collects stones	The Outback	Pouch	Large	Moves Fast
Danny the Dingo	Likes shiny things	The Outback	Sack	Medium	Moves Fast
Stacey Cash the Craftsman	To make money	The Dugout	Cart	Small	Moves Fast
Paul Hall the Bushranger	To make money	The Outback	Sack	Large	Strong
Carla the Cockatoo	Likes shiny things	The Outback	Sack	Small	Flies
Martin Stash the Bushranger	To make money	The Outback	Pouch	Large	Strong
Paul the Miner	To make money	The Outback	Sack	Large	Moves Fast
Crank the Crocodile	Collect stones	The Outback	Cart	Large	Strong
Kevin the Kookaburra	Collects stones	The Dugout	Pouch	Small	Flies
Matilda the Miner	To make money	The Outback	Sack	Large	Strong
Simon Clarke the Bushranger	To make money	The Outback	Sack	Large	Moves Fast
Linda the Lizard	Collects stones	The Dugout	Pouch	Small	Moves Fast
Emily the Emu	Likes shiny things	The Outback	Sack	Large	Moves Fast
Manny the Miner	Likes shiny things	The Outback	Pouch	Medium	Strong

Solve the clues and then cross the suspects off the list until only one suspect remains! The last suspect remaining is the Outback Outlaw!
Whole rows must be eliminated at a time.

COMPARING NUMBERS (UP TO 100) – CLUE 1

Reveal a special clue by looking at each pair of numbers **and circling the greater number**. Use the number that you circled to match and place the letters in the boxes to reveal the clue. Put the letter in every box that it matches your answer in (there may be more than one!) The first one has been done for you!



	H	
--	----------	--

39 86 60

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

73 91 39 55 35 94 41

--	--	--	--	--	--

73 91 39 84 35 26

--	--	--	--	--	--

94 35 17 17 73 39

--	--	--

19 84 49



Circle the greater number in each box.

66 or 86
H

35 or 19
A

84 or 94
C

84 or 68
L

60 or 26
E

19 or 16
F

55 or 49
B

26 or 19
W

39 or 49
Y

73 or 91
U

39 or 17
T

16 or 17
N

73 or 37
O

41 or 14
K

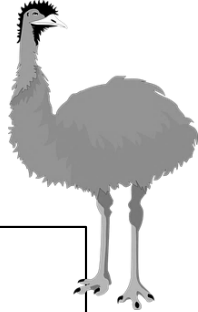




ORDER NUMBERS (Up to 100) - CLUE 2

Discover another clue by arranging the numbers below in **ascending order (smallest to largest)** . Cut out the numbers (paired with letters) at the bottom of the page, arrange and paste them from smallest to largest into the empty boxes to make the letters reveal a clue.

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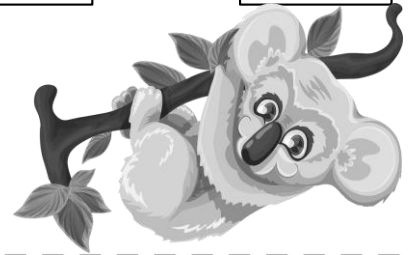
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36	86	8	71	41	28	60	93	14
E	A	T	E	D	H	T	R	H

65	52	39	17	99	59	55	74	80
U	D	F	E	T	O	N	A	C

30	66	44	23
I	S	I	T



COMPARING TRIPLE-DIGIT NUMBERS – CLUE 3

You continue to investigate around the mines and the outback. Discover another important clue by looking at each pair of numbers **and circling the greater number**. Use the number that you circled to match and place the letters in the boxes to reveal the clue. Put the letter in every box that it matches your answer in (there may be more than one!)

--	--	--

215 231 350

--	--	--	--	--	--

901 215 650 819 350 500

--	--	--	--	--

650 180 765 819 901

--	--	--

765 692 350

--	--	--	--	--	--

231 560 400 400 350 500

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

901 650 488 350 305 231 350 692 350

--	--	--

215 231 350

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

650 121 215 225 765 295 237



--	--

560 500

Circle the greater number in each box.

231 or 180

H

305 or 295

W

567 or 765

A

488 or 500

N

350 or 305

E

121 or 109

U

692 or 500

R

403 or 819

L

225 or 215

B

488 or 337

M

560 or 506

I

848 or 901

S

173 or 237

K

215 or 198

T

215 or 400

D

560 or 650

O

295 or 199

C

180 or 109

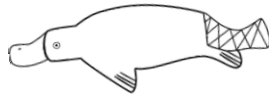
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ORDERING TRIPLE-DIGIT NUMBERS - CLUE 4

Discover another clue by arranging the numbers below in **ascending order (smallest to largest)** . Cut out the numbers (paired with letters) at the bottom of the page, arrange and paste them from smallest to largest into the empty boxes to make the letters reveal a clue.

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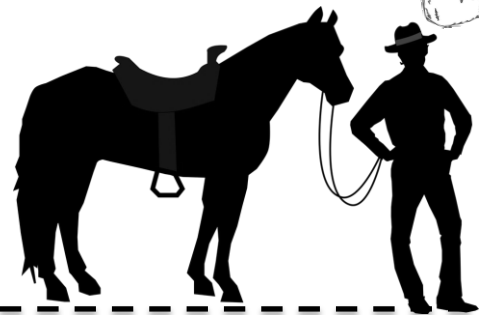
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334	884	255	426	712	104	639	190	975
T	I	K	L	N	T	S	T	G

120	833	999	214	511	117	415	283	690
O	T	S	A	K	E	W	O	H

916	362	109	599	145	780	310	850	440
N	L	H	S	U	Y	U	H	I

200	401	547	230	702
B	A	E	C	I



COMPARING NUMBERS – CLUE 5

You continue to investigate around the mines and the outback. Discover another important clue by looking at each pair of numbers **and circling the lesser number**. Use the number that you circled to match and place the letters in the boxes to reveal the clue. Put the letter in every box that it matches your answer in (there may be more than one!)

--	--	--

956 577 201

--	--	--	--

975 523 115 879

--	--	--

187 438 186

--	--	--	--	--	--

399 187 577 210 186 115

--	--	--	--	--

577 667 150 210 399

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

399 201 623 623 577 201 115 879 186 879

--	--

400 956

--	--	--	--	--

210 150 623 459 186

--	--	--	--	--

187 623 150 527 600

--	--	--	--	--

848 150 623 600 399



Circle the smaller number in each box.

623 or 667

R

201 or 187

T

667 or 766

P

438 or 483

H

201 or 210

U

956 or 879

D

400 or 399

S

956 or 975

Y

186 or 150

A

572 or 527

C

600 or 577

O

848 or 901

M

438 or 210

L

975 or 981

F

399 or 186

E

600 or 703

K

692 or 459

G

150 or 115

N

523 or 692

I

600 or 400

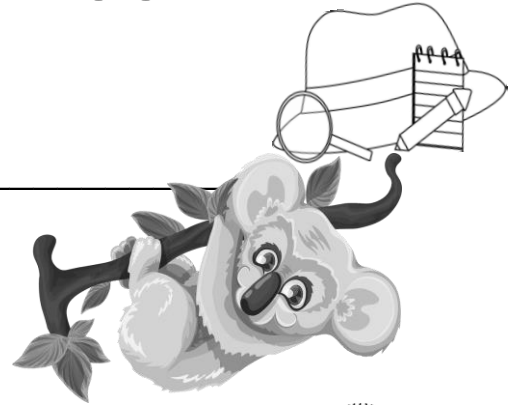
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SOLVE THE MYSTERY: CASE OF THE OUTBACK OUTLAW

Detective

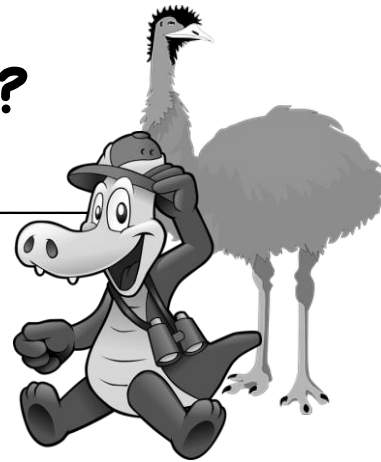
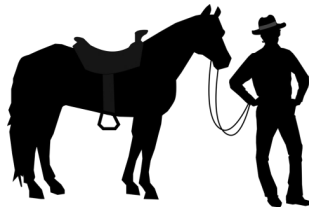


(your name)



Case Discovery:

Who is the Outback Outlaw?



Clues Checklist:

Clue 1

Clue 2

Clue 3

Clue 4

Clue 5

Teacher to check and tick



Well done! You discovered who the Outback Outlaw is! Thanks to your brilliant detective work, all of the stolen opals have been returned. Everyone is very grateful for your hard work. Thank you detective!



Oops! No that isn't the Outback Outlaw! Check your work and try again!



ANSWER SHEET – CLUE 1

Cross off any suspects who have the special ability to fly.

T H E
39 86 60

O U T B A C K
73 91 39 55 35 94 41

O U T L A W
73 91 39 84 35 26

C A N N O T
94 35 17 17 73 39

F L Y
19 84 49

66 or **86**
H

35 or 19
A

84 or **94**
C

84 or 68
L

60 or 26
E

19 or 16
F

55 or 49
B

26 or 19
W

39 or **49**
Y

73 or **91**
U

39 or 17
T

16 or **17**
N

73 or 37
O

41 or 14
K



ANSWER SHEET - CLUE 2

Discover another clue by arranging the numbers below in **ascending order (smallest to largest)**. Cut out the numbers (paired with letters) at the bottom of the page, arrange and paste them from smallest to largest into the empty boxes to make the letters reveal a clue.

8	14	17
T	H	E

23	28	30	36	39
T	H	I	E	F

41	44	52
D	I	D

55	59	60
N	O	T

65	66	71
U	S	E

74
A

80	86	93	99
C	A	R	T

Cross off any rows that have 'cart' as a tool used to steal the opals.

Remember whole rows must be eliminated at a time. So any suspect marked with 'cart' must be crossed off too.



ANSWER SHEET – CLUE 3

Cross off any suspects rows marked with hiding the opals in the Dugout.

T H E

215 231 350

S T O L E N

901 215 650 819 350 500

O P A L S

650 180 765 819 901

A R E

765 692 350

H I D D E N

231 560 400 400 350 500

S O M E W H E R E

901 650 488 350 305 231 350 692 350

I N

560 500

T H E

215 231 350

O U T B A C K

650 121 215 225 765 295 237

231 or 180
H

305 or 295
W

567 or 765
A

488 or 500
N

350 or 305
E

121 or 109
U

692 or 500
R

403 or 819
L

225 or 215
B

488 or 337
M

560 or 506
I

848 or 901
S

173 or 237
K

215 or 198
T

215 or 400
D

560 or 650
O

295 or 199
C

180 or 109
P



ANSWER SHEET - CLUE 4

Discover another clue by arranging the numbers below in **ascending order (smallest to largest)**. Cut out the numbers (paired with letters) at the bottom of the page, arrange and paste them from smallest to largest into the empty boxes to make the letters reveal a clue.

104	109	117
T	H	E

120	145	190	200	214	230	255
O	U	T	B	A	C	K

283	310	334	362	401	415
O	U	T	L	A	W

426	440	511	547	599
L	I	K	E	S

639	690	702	712	780
S	H	I	N	Y

833	850	884	916	975	999
T	H	I	N	G	S

Only keep rows with the motive 'likes shiny things'. Cross off all rows with other motives.

Remember whole rows must be eliminated at a time.



ANSWER SHEET – CLUE 5

Only keep rows with the suspect large in size. At this point, this should leave only one row remaining and that is the Outback Outlaw!

Y	O	U
---	---	---

956 577 201

F	I	N	D
---	---	---	---

975 523 115 879

T	H	E
---	---	---

187 438 186

S	T	O	L	E	N
---	---	---	---	---	---

399 187 577 210 186 115

O	P	A	L	S
---	---	---	---	---

577 667 150 210 399

S	U	R	R	O	U	N	D	E	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

399 201 623 623 577 201 115 879 186 879

B	Y
---	---

400 956

L	A	R	G	E
---	---	---	---	---

210 150 623 459 186

T	R	A	C	K
---	---	---	---	---

187 623 150 527 600

M	A	R	K	S
---	---	---	---	---

848 150 623 600 399

623 or 667
R

201 or 187
T

667 or 766
P

438 or 483
H

201 or 210
U

956 or 879
D

400 or 399
S

956 or 975
Y

186 or 150
A

572 or 527
C

600 or 577
O

848 or 901
M

438 or 210
L

975 or 981
F

399 or 186
E

600 or 703
K

692 or 459
G

150 or 115
N

523 or 692
I

600 or 400
B

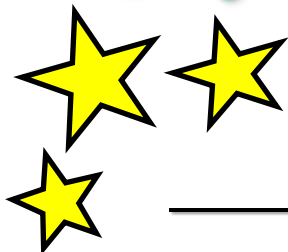
ELIMINATION OF SUSPECTS

Suspect Name	Motive	Hiding the opals in . . .	Used to steal opals.	Size	Special ability
Ted Nelly the Bushranger	To make money	The Outback	Sack	Large	Moves Fast
Maggie the Magpie	Likes shiny things	The Dugout	Pouch	Small	Flies
Pete the Platypus	Collects stones	The Outback	Pouch	Medium	Moves Fast
Cecile Smith the Cook	To make money	The Dugout	Pouch	Large	Strong
Stan Smogan The Bushranger	Likes shiny things	The Dugout	Cart	Medium	Strong
Kelly the Kangaroo	Collects stones	The Outback	Pouch	Large	Moves Fast
Danny the Dingo	Likes shiny things	The Outback	Sack	Medium	Moves Fast
Stacey Cash the Craftsman	To make money	The Dugout	Cart	Small	Moves Fast
Paul Hall the Bushranger	To make money	The Outback	Sack	Large	Strong
Carla the Cockatoo	Likes shiny things	The Outback	Sack	Small	Flies
Martin Stash the Bushranger	To make money	The Outback	Pouch	Large	Strong
Paul the Miner	To make money	The Outback	Sack	Large	Moves Fast
Crank the Crocodile	Collect stones	The Outback	Cart	Large	Strong
Kevin the Kookaburra	Collects stones	The Dugout	Pouch	Small	Flies
Matilda the Miner	To make money	The Outback	Sack	Large	Strong
Simon Clarke the Bushranger	To make money	The Outback	Sack	Large	Moves Fast
Linda the Lizard	Collects stones	The Dugout	Pouch	Small	Moves Fast
Emily the Emu	Likes shiny things	The Outback	Sack	Large	Moves Fast
Manny the Miner	Likes shiny things	The Outback	Pouch	Medium	Strong

On the answer sheets you will find a comment about what needs to be crossed off. Please refer to the color of the font and the color of the shaded rows to show which suspects to cross off from that clue.

THE OUTBACK OUTLAW IS: EMILY THE EMU

Super Detective Work!



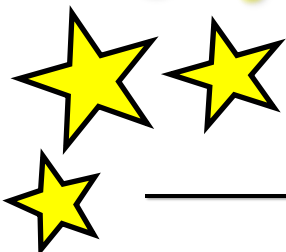
Awarded To:

For solving the Math Mystery:

Case of The Outback Outlaw



Super Detective Work!



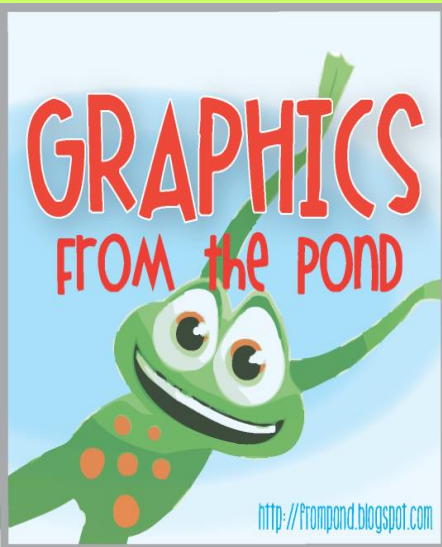
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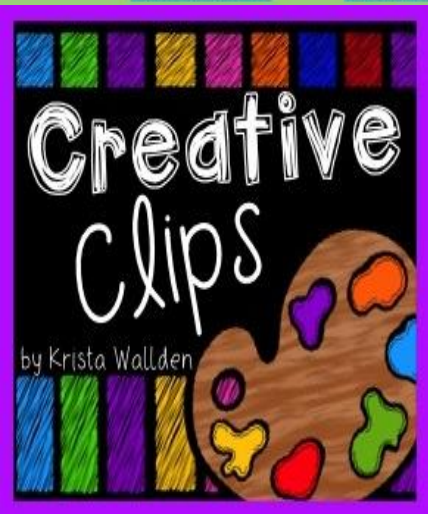


Vladimir Zuñiga
Foca.tk



ZIP-A-DEE
DOO-DAH
Designs

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Thank You!