MATH MYSTERY

CASE OF THE

MATHHATTAN MELTDOWN

GRADE 3

By Mrs J’s Resource Creations ©
MATH MYSTERY:  
CASE OF THE MATHHATTAN MELTDOWN

Date: ____________

Things have been melting in our city this summer, and it’s not just the ice-cream! This season, Mathhattan has found itself facing a monster much hotter than the weather. Citizens are referring to him as the ‘Scorcher.’ This fiery being melts everything that he touches. Luckily, no one has been injured too badly by him, but the damage in the city is dreadful!

Below are some statements made by citizens who were briefly interviewed on the issue this morning:

Ted cried, "My beautiful car! I came back to find a parked pool of metal. What do I tell the insurance company?"

Sue complained, "When the Scorcher tried to come inside my shop, he melted holes through my front door! Keeping the flies out is going to be a nightmare this summer until I can get that fixed."

Jimmy said, "The Scorcher looks scary, but thank goodness he doesn’t seem to want to hurt anyone. His anger is what I find frightening. All you hear is lots of grunts of frustration as he causes destruction in his path, it’s like he hates that he melts everything he touches. I kind of feel sorry for him."

The police just announced the following emergency report:
"We have just discovered that the Scorcher has captured our finest math detectives. He is holding them prisoners in the Cave of Mirrors. We have gathered that he is demanding the math detectives help him solve a mystery, otherwise he will not let them go and he will continue to melt Mathhattan. Unfortunately, the police cannot do much at this point in time. It looks like it is up to the math detectives to save themselves from their imprisonment and to stop further destruction in our city. We all hope that they succeed."

THE SCORCHER REFUSES TO LET YOU LEAVE THE CAVE UNTIL YOU SOLVE THE MYSTERY ABOUT HIS HORRIBLE SUMMER TRANSFORMATION.

The Scorcher wants you to solve what and why this scorching transformation has happened to him and how he can cure his condition. He is furious about being a fiery monster and just wants to be a normal human again.

There is a list of all the possible causes and cures for his condition. You will need to use your brilliant math and detective skills to solve which row holds the true explanation and cure for his transformation! Hurry, the cave is hotter than the summer heatwave outside!
**POSSIBLE CAUSES & CURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Larry the Wizard cast a spell on him.</td>
<td>Curse</td>
<td>A Human</td>
<td>Experiment</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>The Wishing Watermelon</td>
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<td>The Summer heat caused the change</td>
<td>Disease</td>
<td>The Weather</td>
<td>Accident</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Potion of Ice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bitten by a Firefly</td>
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<td>Tabitha the Witch put a curse on him</td>
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<td>A Human</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Potion of the Pools</td>
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<td>Struck by unusual sun lightning</td>
<td>Curse</td>
<td>The Weather</td>
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<td>Stung by an enchanted Bee</td>
<td>Curse</td>
<td>A Bug</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>The Cryptic Coconut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction to the sudden rise in temperature</td>
<td>Disease</td>
<td>The Weather</td>
<td>Accident</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Potion of Repair</td>
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<td>Sheldon the Shaman cast a disease</td>
<td>Disease</td>
<td>A Human</td>
<td>Punishment</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bitten by the Gigantic Mosquito</td>
<td>Curse</td>
<td>A Bug</td>
<td>Accident</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>The Spellbinding Strawberry</td>
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<tr>
<td>A strange sunstroke</td>
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<td>The Weather</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Potion of the Phoenix</td>
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<td>Waldo the Warlock created a monster</td>
<td>Curse</td>
<td>A Human</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>The Grapes of Glory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ivan the Illusionist tried a trick</td>
<td>Curse</td>
<td>A Human</td>
<td>Accident</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>The Magic Mango</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Summer breeze blew a plagued dust</td>
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<td>The Weather</td>
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<tr>
<td>He caught a bizarre disease from the Rogue Runner</td>
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<td>Accident</td>
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<td>Potion of Firepower</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infected by a Bizarre Beetle</td>
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<td>A Bug</td>
<td>Experiment</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>The Bizarre Blueberries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Pewton was testing side affects of his latest invention</td>
<td>Disease</td>
<td>A Human</td>
<td>Experiment</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Potion of Enchantment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Solve the clues and then cross the rows off the list until only one row remains! The last row remaining will tell you all of the information that you need to tell the Scorcher about what happened and what cure he must seek to fix his condition!

Whole rows must be eliminated at a time.
ORDERING FRACTIONS (WITH LIKE NUMERATORS) - CLUE 1

Discover the first clue about the Scorcher’s condition by arranging the fractions below in ascending order. Cut out the fractions (paired with letters) at the bottom of the page, arrange and paste them from least to greatest into the empty boxes to make the letters reveal a clue.

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<td>( \frac{1}{89} )</td>
<td>( \frac{1}{27} )</td>
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<td>( \frac{1}{8} )</td>
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</table>
AREA – CLUE 2

Discover another clue by finding the area of the rectangles and squares below. Use your answers (numbers only) to match and place the letters in the boxes to crack the code. 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.

Area = 42 in²

A = ______ M = ______ Y = ______ U = ______ I = ______

C = ______ P = ______ L = ______ E = ______ T = ______

O = ______ W = ______ S = ______ F = ______ R = ______
SUBTRACTION – CLUE 3

Complete the subtraction questions to reveal an important clue about what happened to the Scorcher. Use your answers 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!)

31 59 93
158 328 573

93 31 328 612 93

328 106 231

141 253 596 762 408 699
- 110 - 22 - 361 - 150 - 315 - 470
- 31

H A D W S G

282 935 368 502 815 174
- 176 - 362 - 309 - 252 - 487 - 56

F N I E O T

940 522 651
- 543 - 364 - 508

U C R
MULTIPLICATION WORD PROBLEMS – CLUE 4

Complete the multiplication word problems to reveal an important clue about what happened to the Scorcher. Use your answers (numbers only) 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 Scorcher has 2 containers of ice. There are 10 cubes of ice in each container. How many cubes of ice does the Scorcher have?

The Scorcher melted 5 packets of candy. There were 6 pieces of candy in each packet. How many pieces of candy did the Scorcher melt?

Sue reported that the Scorcher ruined 6 shelves of items in her store. There were 10 items on each shelf. How many items did the Scorcher ruin?

7 streets have reported building damage by the Scorcher. 5 buildings on each street have damage. How many damaged buildings have been reported?

A summer camp has 9 tents. Each tent holds 3 campers. How many campers can the tents hold?

Jan bought 4 boxes of chocolates. She found that 3 of the chocolates in each box had melted. How many pieces of melted chocolate did Jan find?

Pat has 2 windows at the front of his shop. He found that the Scorcher made 5 holes in each window. How many holes did Pat find in his windows?

Bernie bought 3 bags of summer berries. Each bag had 12 summer berries. How many summer berries did Bernie buy?

Larry bought 4 punnets of strawberries. Each punnet had 8 strawberries. How many strawberries did Larry buy?

Sheldon planted 3 rows with watermelon seeds. There are 11 seeds in each row. How many watermelon seeds did Sheldon plant?

Tina ordered 3 ice-creams. Each ice-cream had 2 scoops. How many scoops of ice-cream did Tina order?

The Scorcher melted 5 bunches of bananas. There were 5 bananas in each bunch. How many bananas did the Scorcher melt?
ADDiTiON - CLuE 5

Complete the addition questions to reveal important information to the Scorcher’s case. Use your answers 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!)

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<td>928</td>
<td>800</td>
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<td>710</td>
<td>705</td>
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<td>703</td>
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<td>939</td>
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<td>681</td>
<td>800</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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106 + 734
+ 492 + 501
+ 227 + 454
+ 690 + 156
+ 308 + 395
+ 729 + 199
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840 |
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T |
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SOLVE THE MYSTERY:
CASE OF THE MATHHATTAN MELTDOWN

Detective

(Your name)

Case Discovery:

What happened to the Scorcher?

Why did it happen to him?

What does he need to look for to cure his condition?

Clues Checklist:

Clue 1   [ ]
Clue 2   [ ]
Clue 3   [ ]
Clue 4   [ ]
Clue 5   [ ]

Teacher to check and tick

Well done! You have successfully solved the mystery of what happened to the Scorcher and why. Thanks to your brilliant detective work, he now also knows what he needs to look for to remove his melting abilities. The Scorcher lets you leave his cave as he goes to seek the item he needs to become human again. Everyone in Mathhattan is really grateful for you being able to take out the extra heat from the city this summer.

Oops! No that is not the correct answer to this mystery case. Check your work and try again!