

MATH MAVENS' MYSTERIES

Name: _____

Date: _____

Mystery at the Peculiar Zoo

Hello, my clever math detectives. I'm here at the Peculiar Zoo, home of the strangest animals to roam the Earth! Earlier today someone took off with a few of the zoo's most precious animals.

"Oh, dear!" cried Hank McGoo, the head zoo keeper. "I came in this morning to feed the animals, but my favorite animals have vanished from their cages! The colorful 3-feathered peacocks . . . the kangaroos with two pouches . . . those prized 5-spotted leopards . . . the giraffes with 4-inch long necks...the dear elephants with two trunks . . ."

"Now, now," I said, trying to calm him. "How many animals are missing in all?"

"I don't know," he whimpered. "I never thought of counting them!"

We searched the zoo for clues and found a crumpled note in the elephant stall:

Dear Mr. McGoo, have I got you —
I've taken your animals to start my own zoo!

My zoo will be the grandest around,
With the strangest animals ever found.

Kids will travel from near and far,
Those 8 elephant trunks will make me a star.

Folks will come to see the kangaroos
With 14 pouches, how could I lose?

The giraffes will go in a special little place.
(16 inches of neck doesn't need a lot of space.)

The leopards will be the biggest hit of all —
With 25 spots, they're off-the-wall!



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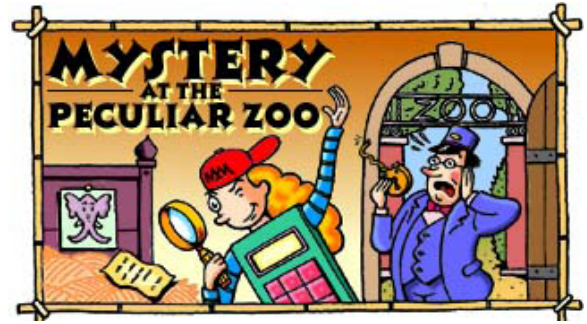
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9 precious peacock feathers will make me rich.
As long as my plan goes off without a hitch!

Signed,
The Zoo Bandit

"What a monster!" cried Mr. McGoo. "Math Maven,
can we stop him?"

"No problem," I told him, "but first we have to figure
out how many of each animal he's stolen from the
Peculiar Zoo. This is a job for my math detectives."



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Solve the Mystery!

Okay, super sleuths. Can you use your multiplication and division skills to figure out how many animals were stolen by the Zoo Bandit? Use the clues in the poem, then write in the number of missing animals next to each animal's name:

<input type="text"/>	Peacocks
<input type="text"/>	Leopards
<input type="text"/>	Elephants
<input type="text"/>	Kangaroos
<input type="text"/>	Giraffes

Use this space to show your work: