

Puzzle: The Mystery of the Missing Cupcakes

A group of college students is running a fundraiser for their student club. They decided to sell cupcakes, and everything seemed to go perfectly. However, after the event, there was a confusion in the final sales numbers. The student who was in charge of keeping track of the sales made a mistake, and now there's a discrepancy in the total number of cupcakes sold.

Here are the facts:

- The initial stock of cupcakes was 500.
- The sales were supposed to be tracked in two different places: a paper log and a spreadsheet. However, the spreadsheet got corrupted and part of the data is missing.
- From the paper log, the following data points are available:

Time	Cupcakes Sold
10:00 AM	60
11:00 AM	85
1:00 PM	110
3:00 PM	95

- The total number of cupcakes sold according to the log is 350.
- The corrupted spreadsheet indicates there were an additional 100 cupcakes sold between 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM.

Puzzle Question:

Can you figure out how many cupcakes were **actually sold between 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM**? Using the data, what might have gone wrong, and how would you clean and analyze this data to get the correct total?

This puzzle introduces students to the concepts of:

1. **Data Integrity:** Understanding the importance of accurate data entry and the impact of errors.
2. **Data Cleaning:** How to handle missing or corrupted data.
3. **Data Analysis:** Basic data aggregation and identifying inconsistencies.

It can spark discussion about methods for cleaning, verifying, and validating data in real-world scenarios. You could even turn it into an interactive classroom activity, where students propose potential methods to clean up the data.