MATH

Multi-step word problems

Name _____ Date _____

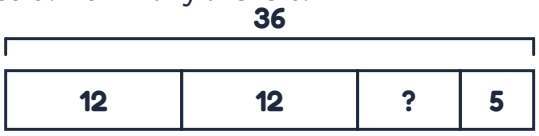
I can solve problems with bigger numbers and more than one step.

1 How to solve a word problem

1. **Read** Read the whole problem twice.
2. **Find** Find the question. Underline it.
3. **Draw** Draw a bar model or a picture.
4. **Solve** Pick + − × or ÷ and solve.
5. **Check** Does the answer make sense?

Example

3 packs have 12 pens each. 5 pens are sold. How many are left?



3 × 12 = 36, 36 − 5 = 31 pens

2 Your turn

Draw a bar model, then solve.

1. A rope 540 centimeters long is cut into 9 equal pieces. How long is each piece?

Answer: _____

Draw it

2. A school collected 1,548 cans in the fall and 2,294 cans in the spring. How many cans did it collect in all?

Answer: _____

Draw it

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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One-step problems

Name _____ Date _____

I can choose the operation and solve a one-step problem.

1 Read, solve, write the answer

Write the unit too: apples, dollars, feet ...

1 A box holds 31 crayons. How many crayons are in 9 boxes?

Answer:

2 504 books are packed equally into 8 boxes. How many books are in each box?

Answer:

3 A farm has 480 chickens and 244 ducks. How many birds are on the farm?

Answer:

4 A stadium has 8,064 seats. 4,587 seats are taken. How many seats are empty?

Answer:

5 A theater has 15 rows with 16 seats in each row. How many seats are in the theater?

Answer:

6 Yusuf saves $13 every week. How much money will Yusuf have saved after 38 weeks?

Answer:

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Pick the operation

Name _____ Date _____

I can tell which operation a problem needs.

1 Circle +, –, × or ÷, then solve

Solve in the box.

1. A farm had 682 eggs and sold 298. How many are left? + – × ÷ ____
2. 344 red and 260 blue tickets. How many in all? + – × ÷ ____
3. 175 cards in 7 equal piles. How many per pile? + – × ÷ ____
4. 5 buses carry 44 people each. How many people? + – × ÷ ____
5. 2,076 liters in a tank. 869 leak out. How many left? + – × ÷ ____
6. A tree is 5 times as tall as a 31 inch plant. How tall? + – × ÷ ____

2 Write a number sentence, then solve

1 Emma has 65 stamps. Zara has 4 times as many stamps as Emma. How many stamps does Zara have?

Number sentence: _____ **Answer:** _____

2 A plane flew 1,414 miles on Monday and 844 miles on Tuesday. How much farther did it fly on Monday?

Number sentence: _____ **Answer:** _____

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Two-step problems

Name _____ Date _____

I can solve a problem that takes two steps.

1 Two steps: plan, solve, check

Find what you need to know first.

1 A store has 10 boxes of pens with 12 pens in each box. It sells 42 pens. How many pens are left?

Answer: _____

Step 1 · Step 2

2 Ali buys 5 shirts that cost $15 each and pays with a $50 bill. How much change does Ali get?

Answer: _____

Step 1 · Step 2

3 A library has 540 books about science. It gets 44 new ones and puts all of them equally on 8 shelves. How many books go on each shelf?

Answer: _____

Step 1 · Step 2

4 257 students go on a trip. Each bus holds 39 students. How many buses are needed? How many seats are empty?

Answer: _____

Step 1 · Step 2

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: multi-step word problems

1 Page 1

Your turn: 1) 540 ÷ 9 = 60 (60 centimeters); 2) 1,548 + 2,294 = 3,842 (3,842 cans).

2 Page 2

One-step problems: 1) 9 × 31 = 279 (279 crayons); 2) 504 ÷ 8 = 63 (63 books); 3) 480 + 244 = 724 (724 birds); 4) 8,064 − 4,587 = 3,477 (3,477 seats); 5) 15 × 16 = 240 (240 seats); 6) 38 × 13 = 494 ($494).

3 Page 3

Operation: 1) −: 682 − 298 = 384; 2) +: 344 + 260 = 604; 3) ÷: 175 ÷ 7 = 25; 4) ×: 5 × 44 = 220; 5) −: 2,076 − 869 = 1,207; 6) ×: 31 × 5 = 155.

Number sentences: 1) 65 × 4 = 260 (260 stamps); 2) 1,414 − 844 = 570 (570 miles).

4 Page 4: two-step problems

Two-step: 1) 10 × 12 = 120, 120 − 42 = 78 (78 pens); 2) 5 × 15 = 75, 50 − 75 = -25 ($-25); 3) 540 + 44 = 584, 584 ÷ 8 = 73 (73 books); 4) 257 ÷ 39 = 6 R23, so 7 buses; 273 − 257 = 16 (7 buses, 16 empty seats).

5 Teaching tip

Have children write "Step 1" and "Step 2" with a short label for each, such as "pens in all" and "pens left". Labelled steps show where a mistake happened.

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