Multiplication and Division Word Problems

Spot mistakes, reason, and work backward

Name _____ **Date** _____ **Score** _____ / 8

QUICK REVIEW

Ask what is unknown. Equal groups with an unknown total use multiplication: 4 bags of 3 apples give $4 \times 3 = 12$. A known total shared equally uses division: $12 \div 4 = 3$ apples per bag. Include the unit in your answer.

Worked example

Share 21 pebbles equally among 3 children. How many does each child get?

1. Each of the 3 children gets the same share: $21 \div 3 = 7$.
2. Check all shares: $3 \times 7 = 21$ pebbles.
Answer: 7 pebbles per child.

Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. 28 beads fill bags of 7 beads. Lee says the quotient 4 means beads per bag. Correct the label.

2. 6 teams each receive 5 cards. Find the starting total, then write a sharing equation.

3. Share 24 shells equally among 3 children. How many does each child get?

4. Put 36 stickers into groups of 4. How many groups can you make?

5. Five classes share 30 tickets equally. The bar shows one equal part per class. Find tickets per class and write the matching equation.

30 tickets altogether

?	?	?	?	?

6. Six packs hold 24 cards equally. Bo writes $24 \div 4 = 6$ and labels the answer cards per pack. Repair the equation for the requested amount.

7. Five equal bags hold 35 shells altogether. In $5 \times \square = 35$, what question does the box answer? Solve it with its unit.

8. Four bags contain 20 marbles in all. The story does not say the bags are equal. Does it guarantee 5 per bag? Give a counterexample and state the missing condition.

Answer Key

1. 4 bags; 7 beads per bag.
2. 30 cards; $30 \div 6 = 5$.
3. 8 shells per child.
4. 9 groups.
5. 6 tickets per class; $30 \div 5 = 6$.
6. $24 \div 6 = 4$ cards per pack.
7. How many shells per bag? 7 shells per bag.
8. No. Counts $2, 4, 6, 8$ work; equal contents would be needed for 5 each.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. $28 \div 7 = 4$ because $4 \times 7 = 28$.

2. The size 7 beads per bag is already given; the unknown 4 is the number of bags.

Problem 2

1. Combine the shares: $6 \times 5 = 30$ cards.

2. Sharing the total again gives $30 \div 6 = 5$ per team.

Problem 3

1. Each of the 3 children gets the same share: $24 \div 3 = 8$.

2. Check all shares: $3 \times 8 = 24$ shells.

Problem 4

1. Each group uses 4 stickers; 9 groups use $9 \times 4 = 36$.

2. Therefore $36 \div 4 = 9$ counts groups, not stickers in one group.

Problem 5

1. The 5 equal bar parts must add to 30, so $5 \times \square = 30$.

2. Since $5 \times 6 = 30$, each class gets $30 \div 5 = 6$ tickets.

Problem 6

1. The number of packs is already 6; the missing factor satisfies $6 \times \square = 24$.

2. The factor is 4, so $24 \div 6 = 4$ cards per pack. The original quotient 6 counts packs, not cards in one.

Problem 7

1. The factor 5 already counts bags, so the other factor must count shells in each bag.

2. $35 \div 5 = 7$ and $5 \times 7 = 35$, so the missing amount is 7 shells per bag.

Problem 8

1. The unequal counts $2 + 4 + 6 + 8 = 20$ satisfy the stated total but are not all 5.

2. Only if the four bags have equal counts does $20 \div 4 = 5$ give marbles in every bag.

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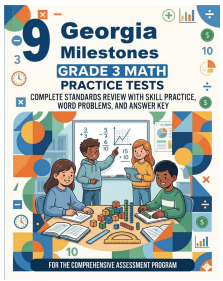

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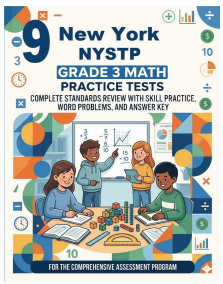

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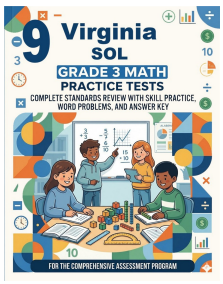

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