Two-Step Word Problems

Explore ideas and representations

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

QUICK REVIEW

Find the first unknown before the final answer. For 3 packs of 5 cards with 4 cards given away: $3 \times 5 = 15$, then $15 - 4 = 11$. The equation is $(3 \times 5) - 4 = 11$. Check that $11 + 4 = 15$.

Worked example

Nia has 3 packs of 6 stickers. She gives away 4 stickers. How many remain?

1. First find the stickers: $3 \times 6 = 18$.
2. Then subtract the gift: $18 - 4 = 14$ stickers. Equation: $(3 \times 6) - 4 = 14$.
Answer: 14 stickers.

Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. Nia has 4 packs of 6 stickers. She gives away 5 stickers. How many remain?

2. A club has 18 beads and gets 6 more. It shares all beads equally among 3 children. How many per child?

3. One team collects 5 bags of 7 cans. Another collects 26 cans. How many more cans does the first team collect?

4. 2 boxes hold 9 shells each, plus 4 loose shells. Sol adds $2 + 9 + 4 = 15$. Correct his total.

5. After 3 cards are set aside, the rest fill 6 envelopes with 4 cards each. How many cards were there at first?

6. 4 teams need 8 pencils each. There are 25 pencils. How many more pencils must be brought?

7. Nia has 3 packs of 7 stickers. She gives away 8 stickers. How many remain?

8. A club has 25 beads and gets 5 more. It shares all beads equally among 5 children. How many per child?

Answer Key

1. 19 stickers.
2. 8 beads per child.
3. 9 more cans.
4. 22 shells.
5. 27 cards.
6. 7 more pencils.
7. 13 stickers.
8. 6 beads per child.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. First find the stickers: $4 \times 6 = 24$.
2. Then subtract the gift: $24 - 5 = 19$ stickers. Equation: $(4 \times 6) - 5 = 19$.

Problem 2

1. Combine the beads: $18 + 6 = 24$.
2. Share equally: $24 \div 3 = 8$ beads per child; $3 \times 8 = 24$ checks the total.

Problem 3

1. The first team collects $5 \times 7 = 35$ cans.
2. The difference is $35 - 26 = 9$ cans.

Problem 4

1. The boxed shells are $2 \times 9 = 18$, not $2 + 9$.
2. Add the loose shells: $18 + 4 = 22$ shells.

Problem 5

1. The envelopes contain $6 \times 4 = 24$ cards.
2. Put back the set-aside cards: $24 + 3 = 27$. Check: $(27 - 3) \div 6 = 4$.

Problem 6

1. All teams need $4 \times 8 = 32$ pencils.
2. The shortage is $32 - 25 = 7$ pencils.

Problem 7

1. First find the stickers: $3 \times 7 = 21$.
2. Then subtract the gift: $21 - 8 = 13$ stickers. Equation: $(3 \times 7) - 8 = 13$.

Problem 8

1. Combine the beads: $25 + 5 = 30$.
2. Share equally: $30 \div 5 = 6$ beads per child; $5 \times 6 = 30$ checks the total.

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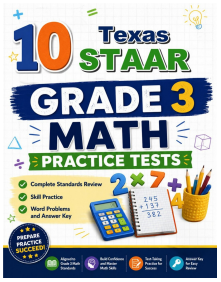

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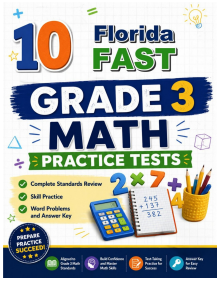

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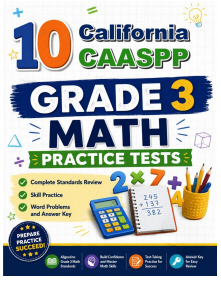

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