Two-Step Word Problems

Spot mistakes, reason, and work backward

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. 7 boxes hold 5 shells each, plus 6 loose shells. Sol adds $7 + 5 + 6 = 18$. Correct his total.

2. After 8 cards are set aside, the rest fill 4 envelopes with 9 cards each. How many cards were there at first?

3. 6 teams need 7 pencils each. There are 33 pencils. How many more pencils must be brought?

4. A trip planned for 8 teams. Three teams cancel. Each remaining team needs 4 flags. How many flags are needed? Write an equation showing which operation comes first.

5. A box has 30 beads. Set aside 6, then share the rest equally among 3 children. Ana instead does $30 \div 3 - 6 = 4$. Correct the order.

6. A child had some marbles, lost 7, then found 12. Now there are 28. Find the starting count by undoing both changes.

7. There are 4 red bins and 3 blue bins. Each bin gets 5 balls. Write one equation with parentheses and solve.

Bin color	Bins
Red	4
Blue	3

8. A library has 86 comic books. It lends 28 in the morning and 19 in the afternoon. A helper reports $86 - (28 - 19) = 77$. Correct the lending calculation.

Answer Key

1. 41 shells.
2. 44 cards.
3. 9 more pencils.
4. $(8 - 3) \times 4 = 20$ flags.
5. 8 beads per child.
6. 23 marbles.
7. $(4 + 3) \times 5 = 35$ balls.
8. 39 comic books remain.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. The boxed shells are $7 \times 5 = 35$, not $7 + 5$.

2. Add the loose shells: $35 + 6 = 41$ shells.

Problem 2

1. The envelopes contain $4 \times 9 = 36$ cards.

2. Put back the set-aside cards: $36 + 8 = 44$. Check: $(44 - 8) \div 4 = 9$.

Problem 3

1. All teams need $6 \times 7 = 42$ pencils.

2. The shortage is $42 - 33 = 9$ pencils.

Problem 4

1. Find attending teams first: $8 - 3 = 5$ teams.

2. Those teams need $5 \times 4 = 20$ flags. Multiplying before removing the canceled teams would include unwanted flags.

Problem 5

1. The set-aside amount comes out of the whole first: $30 - 6 = 24$ beads to share.

2. Then $24 \div 3 = 8$ each. The equation is $(30 - 6) \div 3 = 8$, not $30 \div 3 - 6$.

Problem 6

1. Undo finding 12: $28 - 12 = 16$ marbles before the find.

2. Undo losing 7: $16 + 7 = 23$ at first. Check $23 - 7 + 12 = 28$.

Problem 7

1. Combine the bin counts first: $4 + 3 = 7$ equal bins.

2. Fill them: $7 \times 5 = 35$ balls. Parentheses show that both colors are included before multiplying.

Problem 8

1. The number lent is $28 + 19 = 47$, not $28 - 19 = 9$.

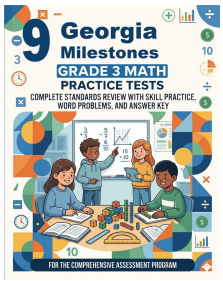
2. Remaining books: $86 - 47 = 39$. Check $39 + 28 + 19 = 86$.

TESTINAR

Keep Building Grade 3 Math Skills

Choose the practice book matched to your state assessment and turn worksheet practice into a complete test-prep plan.

All Grade 3 books



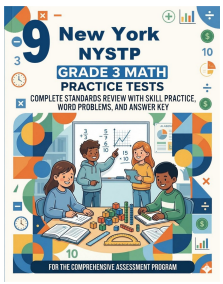
GEORGIA MILESTONES

9 Full-Length Math Practice Tests

Build Grade 3 accuracy, confidence, and test stamina with 9 printable practice tests.

Printable eBook • Instant PDF access

View eBook



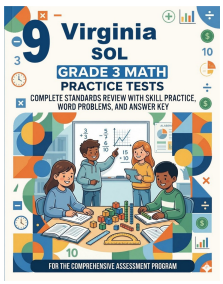
NEW YORK NYSTP

9 Full-Length Math Practice Tests

Build Grade 3 accuracy, confidence, and test stamina with 9 printable practice tests.

Printable eBook • Instant PDF access

View eBook



VIRGINIA SOL

9 Full-Length Math Practice Tests

Build Grade 3 accuracy, confidence, and test stamina with 9 printable practice tests.

Printable eBook • Instant PDF access

View eBook

Need a different state?
Testinar has Grade 3 math practice books for state assessments across the country.

TESTINAR.COM/GRADES/3