Two-Step Word Problems

Apply the skill to decisions and designs

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. 8 teams need 7 pencils each. There are 47 pencils. How many more pencils must be brought?

2. A club has 41 beads and gets 7 more. It shares all beads equally among 6 children. How many per child?

3. Nia has 5 packs of 9 stickers. She gives away 6 stickers. How many remain?

4. A child starts with 17 marbles, gets 9 more, then loses 6. How many remain? Check the two changes in the stated order.

5. You have 50 cents. Three pencils cost 8 cents each. How much money is left after buying them?

6. A play has 5 rows with 6 seats each. One complete row is closed. How many seats may be used? Show a two-step equation.

7. Four teams each bring 7 children, and 5 adults also attend. How many people attend altogether?

8. Design the starting snack supply. Four children must finish with 8 crackers each after each gets 2 extra crackers later. How many crackers must be shared equally at first?

Answer Key

1. 9 more pencils.
2. 8 beads per child.
3. 39 stickers.
4. 20 marbles.
5. 26 cents.
6. 24 seats; $(5-1)\times 6=24$.
7. 33 people.
8. 24 crackers at first.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. All teams need $8\times 7=56$ pencils.

2. The shortage is $56-47=9$ pencils.

Problem 2

1. Combine the beads: $41+7=48$.

2. Share equally: $48\div 6=8$ beads per child; $6\times 8=48$ checks the total.

Problem 3

1. First find the stickers: $5\times 9=45$.

2. Then subtract the gift: $45-6=39$ stickers. Equation: $(5\times 9)-6=39$.

Problem 4

1. After the gift, $17+9=26$ marbles.

2. After the loss, $26-6=20$ marbles. Equation: $(17+9)-6=20$.

Problem 5

1. Total pencil cost is $3\times 8=24$ cents.

2. Subtract the cost from the budget: $50-24=26$ cents left.

Problem 6

1. The usable row count is $5-1=4$.

2. Those rows contain $4\times 6=24$ seats. The closed row is excluded before multiplying.

Problem 7

1. First count children: $4\times 7=28$ children.

2. Then include adults: $28+5=33$ people. Equation: $(4\times 7)+5=33$.

Problem 8

1. Before the extra crackers, each child needs $8-2=6$ crackers.

2. Four equal starting shares need $4\times 6=24$ crackers. Check $24\div 4+2=8$ per child.

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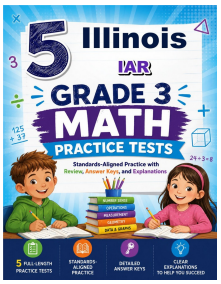

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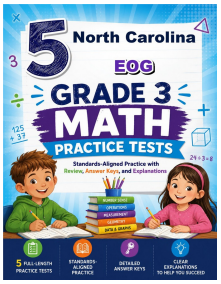

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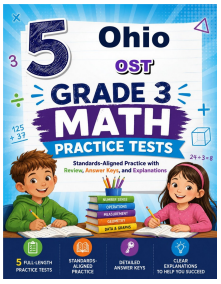

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